

Hardline group quits Palestinian bodies

AMMAN (AP) — A hardline Muslim fundamentalist group announced Sunday it was withdrawing from Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) institutions to protest Palestinian peace efforts with Israel. Al Jihad Al Islam — Al Maqdes said it was quitting the Palestine National Council and the Palestine Central Council. Al Jihad Al Islam's leader, Sheikh Assad Bayoud Tamimi, accused PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, a former ally of "selling out" Palestine. "He is not the chosen one to determine the fate of Palestine," Sheikh Tamimi told a news conference. "Some day, someone will come and liberate Palestine." Sheikh Tamimi's group has six seats in the 468-member Palestine National Council and three seats in the 100-member Palestine Central Council. The central council serves as a go-between the PNC and the PLO's governing executive council. "We will escalate armed struggle to liberate all of Palestine," Sheikh Tamimi said.

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65% of Palestinians approve of accord

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Sixty-five per cent of Palestinians in the occupied territories back the autonomy accord with Israel for the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho, according to a poll released Sunday. The survey, conducted by the independent Centre for Palestine Research and Studies, said 65 per cent of the Palestinians were for the agreement to be signed today in Washington that begins with an Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and Jericho. 26 per cent opposed it and seven per cent were undecided. Fifty-six per cent favoured a change in the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) charter and recognition of Israel's right to exist, in line with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's commitment to do so, while 34 per cent were against it. Forty-six per cent supported an end to the anti-Israel uprising in the occupied territories which began in December 1987 against 42 per cent who wanted it to continue. The poll of 1,200 residents of the West Bank and Gaza Strip was conducted on Sept. 10.

Middle East turns a page today

PLO and Israel to sign peace agreement

Combined agency dispatches

WASHINGTON — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin flew to Washington Sunday to endorse a momentous Middle East peace agreement.

Mr. Arafat, head of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), and Mr. Rabin will attend the signing of an autonomy agreement between the PLO and Israel at the White House Monday.

Dressed in the traditional headcovering and a military uniform, Mr. Arafat descended the steps and was welcomed by a crowd of people, including about 20 Arab diplomats.

"I am very happy to be here to make peace in this historical moment," Mr. Arafat told reporters.

"I am very grateful for what President [Bill] Clinton has done for the peace process."

"I am extremely happy to be here to work for a just peace in the land of Palestine," he said.

Mr. Arafat was accompanied by a 15-strong PLO delegation for the flight from Tunis to Andrews Air Force base outside Washington.

He arrived at 3:40 p.m. (1940 GMT) on a Boeing 707 jetliner provided by King Hassan II of Morocco.

Mr. Arafat was met by U.S.

Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs Edward Djerejian and the State Department's assistant chief of protocol, Mary French.

No diplomats from Syria, Lebanon and Kuwait were among those welcoming the PLO chief.

Mr. Djerejian and Ms. French were to meet Mr. Rabin when he arrives later Sunday, a State Department official said.

Mr. Arafat's trip is his first to the United States since 1974, when he addressed the U.N. General Assembly with a pistol in one hand and an olive branch in the other.

In addition to attending the signing ceremony, Mr. Arafat will meet with Secretary of State Warren Christopher at the State Department, Mr. Christopher said Sunday.

Mr. Christopher said the agreement would be signed at the "ministerial" level, not by Mr. Arafat or Mr. Rabin. Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres will sign for Israel and Mr. Arafat's No. 2 on the mission, Mahmoud Abbas, will probably sign for the PLO.

Mr. Christopher said it was of tremendous symbolic value that Mr. Rabin and Mr. Arafat be present at the signing of the document.

"It's very important that both

(Arafat and Rabin) are going to be here. With respect to Mr. Arafat it really puts him on the line. He's out there before the entire world, committing to this agreement," Mr. Christopher added.

Mr. Arafat was confident of his position as he boarded the flight to Washington a city he has never visited.

"It is a historical, very important moment and it is a step on the right road leading to a Palestinian state," he said. "We hope to achieve very soon real peace and just peace in the land of peace."

Mr. Rabin tried to assure his critics, who were alarmed last week when Mr. Arafat said a Palestinian flag would someday fly over Jerusalem.

"I assure Chairman Arafat that the Palestinian flag will not be over Jerusalem. Jerusalem will remain always united under Israel's sovereignty and our capital forever. The capital of Israel. The capital of the Jewish people. He can forget about it."

PLO adviser Nabil Shaath was equally emphatic in stating the Palestinian position.

"We shall work to negotiate with him (Rabin) and bring about a decision whereby an independent Palestinian state with East

(Continued on page 5)



Palestinians wave a portrait of Yasser Arafat and Palestinian flags during a demonstration in Gaza City (AFP photo)

4 Israelis and 3 Palestinians killed

Combined agency dispatches

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — Four Israelis and three Palestinians died Sunday when Muslim fundamentalists went on the offensive against the signing of the Israeli-Palestinian peace deal in Washington.

A lone 19-year-old Palestinian stabbed to death an Israeli bus driver and tried to kill passengers before being shot dead by a soldier, while Hamas men killed three troops, and two Palestinians were killed by their own bombs.

The bus attack took place on a main road outside the port city of Ashdod, south of Tel Aviv.

The Egged private bus service was on a regular shuttle from Ashkelon to Ashdod along the Mediterranean coast when the man boarded at a stop and drew a big knife and a grenade.

He attacked the driver and went for other passengers before a soldier pumped several bullets into him. A female soldier and the serviceman who killed the Palestinian were hurt as the bus tipped over when the driver braked.

Police said they found a tract from Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement which is bitterly

Hamas wants talks, PLO official reports

Combined agency dispatches

LONDON — The Muslim fundamentalist Palestinian movement Hamas, which rejects the autonomy deal with Israel, wants to talk to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), the organization's representative in Britain said Sunday.

Aff Safiyeh told BBC Television, a man said the Islamic Jihad "assumes responsibility for taking the weapons of the Israeli soldiers and leaving their bodies to the dogs."

"Our Zaitoun operation has succeeded," the caller said. "It is a gift to Yasser Arafat, the peace settlement and all the traitors."

The bullet-ridden corpses were found beside a jeep near a mosque at Zeitoun, on the edge of Gaza City.

"Two or three (men) opened fire from an ambush and the patrol returned fire but the (assailants) kept firing and the jeep smashed into a wall," an army spokesman said.

The soldiers were on patrol down a country road surrounded by fields. The assailants made off with two automatic weapons.

Troops sealed off the area and

(Continued on page 10)

opposed to the peace deal.

The army confirmed that three soldiers were killed Sunday morning in gunfire in an ambush east of Gaza City.

It said that a flyer left at the site

claimed responsibility in the name of the Izzeddin Al Qassam group, the military wing of the Hamas fundamentalist group.

In calls to press offices in Gaza City, a man said the Islamic Jihad "assumes responsibility for taking the weapons of the Israeli soldiers and leaving their bodies to the dogs."

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Troops sealed off the area and

Continued economic disparity in Mideast is risky venture — Regent

Man in street should feel being part of peacemaking

for Jordan to finalise its agenda for peace talks with Israel. He said he expected the announcement of agreement on the agenda to be announced Tuesday.

The Regent said Jordan's reservations over the autonomy agreement, "if they exist at all, all over not only at the lack of (Jordanian-Palestinian) coordination (but also) because it came as a surprise to us all — that is in the past — but more significantly over the contents."

"I think the Palestinians are very clear on Jordanian legitimacy in this regard," he said.

"We are fully supportive of Palestinian rights and indeed we will only relinquish sovereignty to Palestine and not to Israel."

Asked whether Jordan and other Arab states were willing to recognise Israel's "right to exist," the Regent said:

"The very participation in the Madrid conference and indeed the forthcoming agenda (between Jordan and Israel) ... are further affirmation of the fact that we recognise Israel's right to exist."

The Regent said the progress on the Israeli-Palestinian track, as represented in the autonomy agreement between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), had cleared the way

to be responsible for the support of Islamic waqf ... which is a patrimony and not a political issue as such," he said. "In that context, obviously we have been approached Muslim-Christian dialogue with the Vatican with a very clear position that Jordanian responsibility is an extension of ... responsibility since the days of the Ottoman empire. So this is a very weighty issue."

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"The very participation in the Madrid conference and indeed the forthcoming agenda (between Jordan and Israel) ... are further affirmation of the fact that we recognise Israel's right to exist."

If Israel is to be part of the Middle East region (that) means a reminder of the question:

(Continued on page 5)

Hakam Balawi on Israeli television last week reinforced these claims. In the interview Mr. Balawi said that the PLO will be tough and firm with any party that seeks to violate that agreement.

PLO executive committee member Yasser Abed Rabbo, presented a different attitude by repeatedly stressing that pluralism and opposition were "part of the Palestinian democratic tradition."

The conflicting statements by two of the proponents of the accord indicate that the attitude of the future Palestinian authority remains ambiguous and seems to not be agreed upon.

Moreover, critics of Mr. Arafat are very sceptical that the future authority will tolerate opposition, especially that the accord and the mutual recognition agreement were formulated behind the backs of the Palestinian decision-making bodies. They also cite the emphasis, by the leadership, on forming a sizable police force in Gaza and Jericho.

Many Palestinians became more suspicious as the annexes of the accord revealed that the two sides have agreed on cooperation in security matters.

"One cannot but wonder — security cooperation against who ... our own people," said Abdullah Hourani, who suspended his membership in the PLO executive committee on Saturday.

But despite the strong criticism, efforts so far have not succeeded in charting out a unified strategy.

Opposition officials and figures, contacted by the Jordan Times, have all said they were seeking to form a broad coalition or alliance against the accord and formulate a unified action plan.

But there are many questions that are still to be addressed by the opposition, which in the view of political analysts, will have to also shoulder the responsibility of the fate of the Palestinian people and cause, even if it was not part of the accord.

One question that is being

raised but so far not publicly promoted, is whether it is in the interest of the Palestinian people to form a coalition outside the PLO, leading to an alternative organisation, or whether the opposition should maintain its place within the movement and try to safeguard its unity and prevent its further disintegration.

Hamas, the only sizable opposition faction outside the PLO body, has already asked Yemen to mediate with the PLO leadership. Some analysts believe that Hamas is trying to ensure itself some sort of power sharing during the interim period — as a pragmatic tactic to survive and to consolidate its influence.

Hamas counters that it is trying to avoid Palestinian infighting.

The final decision of the Palestinian opposition will largely and finally depend on the popular response to the accord and to the PLO, since none can afford to alienate the Palestinian people, especially insidiously the occupied territories.

Supporters and opponents of accord vie to win Palestinian hearts and minds

From Lamis Andoni
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — On the eve of the historic signing of the Israeli-Palestinian accord supporters and opponents of PLO leader Yasser Arafat's peace strategy are vying to influence the Palestinian movement and people inside and outside the occupied territories.

Both sides, however, seem so far unable to formulate plans to ensure Palestinian national unity and to prevent the disintegration of the PLO — tensions are building up particularly in the occupied territories and the refugee camps in the diaspora.

Although the channels of communications between the two parties have not been closed, through debates and contacts, the Palestinian movement is undergoing fundamental transformation that is rapidly altering the nature of the PLO and its structure and shrinking its basis of support, according to political analysts. The most alarming changes

in the PLO, in the view of analysts and PLO officials, is that the organisation is gradually losing its role as a broad coalition representing the minimum consensus among the diverse Palestinian trends and factions.

Practically speaking and especially following the resignations of three independent figures and two representatives of major groups, the PLO has been reduced to a representative of Fatah and the Palestine People's Party (PPP) — the former Communists.

But even Fatah, the backbone of the PLO and Arafat's own faction, has not escaped the political divisions triggered by the accord on limited Palestinian autonomy, reached in Oslo last month, and the terms of the mutual recognition between Israel and the PLO.

Leading Fatah figures, including three of its cofounders,

have opposed the two agreements while many of the rank and file of the movement are seriously alarmed by the con-

cessions the PLO has accepted. According to Fatah sources, the opposition inside the movement itself is holding intensive contacts to declare a unified stand prior to reaching an agreement with the other groups on what is to be done.

Fatah leaders, who oppose the agreement, are obviously trying to avoid a split in the movement, which had suffered a serious and bloody dissent in 1988.

Furthermore, the PPP, which announced a sudden but qualified endorsement of the accord last week — after having suspended its participation in the peace process — is at odds with Mr. Arafat over his leadership style. The PPP has stipulated the democratisation of the PLO institution as a precondition for its full participation in further negotiations on the basis of the agreements reached with Israel.

The opposition, which comes

from very diverse ideological backgrounds, has not decided yet on how to proceed and counter Mr. Arafat.

Despite repeated statements by Hamas, the PFLP and the DFLP, that the three factions, together and separately, will not resort to violence against the Palestinian autonomy, clashes have already started in the occupied territories between supporters and opponents of the accord with Israel.

The situation is expected to become more complicated once the autonomy is established, especially that the three groups, in addition to other

smaller dissident factions in Damascus, have vowed to continue resisting Israeli occupation during the interim period.

Mr. Arafat has already committed himself to preventing violence against Israel once autonomy is established in Gaza and Jericho in accordance with the Israeli-Palestinian agreement.

Supporters of the accord staff at the threats made by the opposition groups:

Middle East News

Clinton: No cut in aid to Israel

NEW YORK (R) — President Bill Clinton has promised no cut in military or economic aid to Israel because of the peace agreement with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) but says the U.S. will look to Japan, Europe and Arab states like Saudi Arabia to mainly finance rebuilding of the region.

"One of the things that I really hope to do ... is to reassure the people of Israel that the United States is committed to their security," Mr. Clinton said in an interview published in Sunday's editions of the New York Times.

He added that just because the Israeli government is signing an accord with its former arch enemy, the PLO, it did not mean that the United States was going to start reducing aid or military support to the country — already about \$3 billion a year.

His administration's goal, Mr. Clinton was quoted as saying, was to assure the Israeli people that "they are more secure and not less secure because this is done and that the United States is still there."

"I think that is the most important thing now as they absorb this."

In the interview, his first since the breakthrough towards peace in the Middle East, Mr. Clinton said he expected U.S. economic contributions to the new Palestinian entities in the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho would be what the Times report of the interview described as "modest."

Mr. Clinton said he saw Washington's job as providing "seed money" while most of the aid would be contributed by Japan, the European Community, Scandinavia and the Gulf Arab states, all of which have given him indications of support.

King Fahd of Saudi Arabia is among those who have pledged their support. Mr. Clinton told the Times, despite lingering resentment of over Palestinian support for Iraq in the Gulf war.

Mr. Clinton said Syrian President Hafez Al Assad had assured him that he too was prepared to endorse the Israel-PLO accord. But he added that Mr. Assad had cautioned him that the accord, could not stand alone and had to be followed by a breakthrough on the Syrian-Israeli track.

The Times quoted an unnamed Clinton aide as saying President Assad told Mr. Clinton: "If there is no comprehensive peace, this will not stand on its feet. If there are long periods of time with no progress, these difficulties will grow greater. We should not let time go by without serious work."

The Times paraphrased the U.S. leader as saying his administration still opposes the creation of an independent Palestinian state. But it added that he said the Israelis and Palestinians should decide such issues themselves.



Bill Clinton

Mr. Clinton was also quoted as saying that he hoped Iran would not oppose the mid-east peace breakthrough.

By supporting the move towards peace, he said, Tehran could "change course" and open up the possibility of a different relationship with Washington and the West.

At one point in the wide-ranging interview, Mr. Clinton conceded that he and other heads of state were "still adjusting" to the last-minute changes in Israeli-Palestinian relations.

But he said the accord, which he will host the signing of at the White House Monday, held out the promise of something far more than a diplomatic breakthrough.

"The beauty of this moment is that each of them (Israelis and Palestinians), in a funny way, has given the other the chance to have a normal life," he said.

"While they are nowhere near agreement on what the end of Palestinian self-determination looks like, still they have given each other a sense of place. No matter what you say, there is a sense of roots, of place."

'Additional' guarantees

A series of discussions over the role of the United States as guarantor of the historic pact between Israel and the PLO will be held in Washington, the Washington Post reported Sunday.

An unidentified administration official told the Post that President Clinton personally had pledged to Israel "additional guarantees" that its security will be protected as it takes steps towards a wider Middle East peace with its Arab neighbours.

The paper said the official would not define the additional guarantees, but said the president "would make our position clear."

As talks on final peace and territorial agreements approach, according to the Post, discussions are likely to focus on assurances that Israel has sought related to continued military and economic aid, transfers of high tech military equipment and direct feeds from U.S. intelligence satellites.

Australia welcomes peace accord

CANBERRA — The minister for foreign affairs, Senator Gareth Evans, said Friday that Australia unreservedly welcomed the agreement by Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to recognise each other, formally ending nearly 30 years of unbroken hostility.

"We understand that the agreement will take the form of an exchange of letters of mutual recognition. In these letters the PLO recognises the right of the State of Israel to exist in peace and security. The PLO also commits itself to peaceful resolution of the conflict between the Palestinians and Israel and renounces the use of terrorism and other acts of violence. For its part, Israel has decided to recognise the PLO as the representative of the Palestinian people and commence negotiations with the PLO within the Middle East Peace Process.

"Agreement on mutual recognition now opens the way for the formal conclusion of the agreement on Palestinian self-rule, which is scheduled to take place in Washington on Monday.

"We hope very much that the agreement on Palestinian self-rule will now act as a catalyst and stimulate progress in the other bilateral negotiating tracks between Israel and Jordan, Syria and Lebanon," Mr. Evans said.

Mr. Evans said that Australia has long held the view that direct contacts with the PLO were essential to engage that organisation in a meaningful and constructive dialogue, and to strengthen the moderate elements that Australia has known exist within it.

He said that was why the Australian government had recently decided to permit an official from PLO headquarters in Tunis to take up a position in the PLO office in Canberra.

On the question of Australia's own recognition policy, Mr. Evans said that Australia had for many years accepted that the PLO represents the opinion of a significant proportion of the Palestinian people but had not, however accepted the PLO's claim to be the sole representative of the Palestinian people.

"Now, in light of today's dramatic developments and the agreement of the Israeli government to recognise the PLO as the representative of the Palestinian people, Australia will itself act in that same way in the future," Mr. Evans said.

Mr. Evans said that this did not of course constitute recognition by Australia of the PLO as a sovereign state. The creation of an independent State of Palestine, may well be the ultimate outcome of the peace process, but it is quite premature to anticipate that process at this stage.

"At long last, the olive branch is taking precedence over the freedom fighter's gun" — Australian Embassy press release



An Israeli border policeman guards arrested Palestinians in the Shawafat refugee camp in north Jerusalem Sunday where the Israeli army sealed two Palestinian homes (AFP photo)

PLO plans to deploy fighters as security force in autonomy area

By John Halaby
The Associated Press

AMMAN — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) is mustering its fighters scattered around the Arab World to move into the occupied territories as a security force by the end of the year when the peace accord with Israel takes effect, officials said.

They said up to 20,000 members of the Palestine Liberation Army (PLA), formed in 1964 as the PLO's conventional military arm, would maintain law and order in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho when the Israeli army pulls out.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat is clearly determined to build up his military muscle in the autonomous zones to prevent trouble when he takes over.

Hardline Palestinian factions oppose the peace accord between the PLO and Israel, raising the spectre of inter-Palestinian bloodletting as well as attacks on Israeli settlers in the occupied territories.

The autonomy agreement envisages an Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho in four to six months.

The rest of the occupied West Bank will remain under Israeli control, but the Palestinians living there will have limited autonomy.

The final status of the territories seized by Israel in the 1967 Middle East war, will be decided in negotiations beginning not later than the third year of autonomy.

The PLO officials, who

spoke to the Associated Press on condition of anonymity, said a PLA advance guard will be sent to Jericho ahead of Mr. Arafat's expected arrival there later in the year.

"We expect things to be mostly in place by December, and have tentatively set the end of the year for Abu Ammar (Arafat's nom de guerre) to move himself to Jericho and Gaza," said one official close to Mr. Arafat.

"Part of the PLA forces are now undergoing training as police in cooperation with the security organisations of the host countries," he said.

PLO sources in Tunis reported that Mr. Arafat has sent his military commanders to Arab states where the movement has its fighters to oversee training for their new role.

Another senior PLO official said Israel had agreed during secret negotiations in Oslo, which led to the autonomy areas.

"All other countries have responded positively to our requests that PLA forces in their territories be moved, but we have not heard from the Syrians yet," he said.

Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, a long-time rival of Mr. Arafat, angered at him for breaking ranks to negotiate secretly with the Jewish state, has not publicly blessed the PLO-Israel agreement.

The PLO officials said PLA brigadier Tareq Al Khadra, who is based in Damascus, has been tentatively named as commander of the planned security force in what appeared to be an effort to persuade him to place his units under PLO control.

PLA units fought against Israel in the 1967 and 1973 Middle East war and in 1982, when Israel invaded Lebanon.

The Israel's 1967 invasion of Lebanon forced the Palestinians out of Beirut and the PLO's forces were scattered around the Arab World.

Now PLA is understood to be around 30,000 to 35,000 regular and irregular in nine brigades.

The Hittin Brigade is attached to the Syrian army, the Badr Brigade is in Jordan and the Aqsa Brigade in Iraq.

The Ajnadin brigade is stationed in Algeria, the Sabra and Shatila brigades in Yemen, the Al Quds Brigade in Libya, the 'In Jalout brigade in Egypt and the Beirut Al Qudsieh Brigade in Sudan.

"How many other unfounded accusations will they invent?" Defence Minister Fabio Fabbri said in a news release.

Mr. Fabbri was meeting Sunday with visiting U.S. Defence Secretary Les Aspin, after Italy criticised a U.S.-led crackdown on fugitive Somalia warlord Mohammad Farrah Aideed and called for negotiations.

Seven Nigerian U.N. troops died last Sunday when Somali gunmen ambushed their unit as it prepared to take over from Italian forces that were to move out of an area of Mogadishu.

Nigerian soldiers in the 28th

U.N. force accused the Italians of failing to back them up during the shootout, while the Italians contend they needed to protect their checkpoint that was also surrounded by angry Somalis.

The Times of London on Saturday quoted a "confidential Nigerian account sent to U.N. headquarters" in New York, saying the Italians paid \$200 a month in protection money to each elder

"Damascus 10," called for a demonstration at refugee camps.

Only 2,500 of the 33,500 refugees at the camps of Nahr Ebed and Beddawi in northern Lebanon took part in a rally after the noontime Friday prayers to pronounce Mr. Arafat a traitor and set fire to a Arap dummy.

About 20 Palestinian children accompanying the demonstrators were told to step on the gate and smoking dummy to express their anger and opposition to Mr. Arafat.

The children, aged 8-14 years, joyfully jumped on the dummy but abruptly interrupted their pleasure when a guerrilla official shouted at them: "This is a express anger. Not a party."

At the refugee camp on Rashdiyah in South Lebanon, which beyond the control of Syria, 40,000 peacekeepers troops, have been decorating power poles, walls, doors, cars and even orange trees with the guerrilla leaders' posters to express the backing to his policies.

"Tell me what wrong has An fat done?" asked Ibrahim Khouri, a 42-year-old refugee.

"He's accepted autonomy i Gaza and Jericho as a first step. That's fine. Before this we had autonomy and homeland an where," Mr. Khouri added.

Lebanese want Arafat 'happy and far away'

By Mohammad Salam
The Associated Press

BEIRUT — Ordinary Lebanese Friday welcomed the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) pact on mutual recognition and asked God to "make Arafat happy and keep him away."

The remark, which is a common saying in Lebanon, was repeated by at least 10 Lebanese interviewed separately on their reaction to the mutual recognition treaty.

Yasser Arafat's guerrillas were based in Lebanon for 13 years, and friction between Palestinians and Maronite Christians helped touch off the civil war in 1975.

Khalil Kasshur, a Shiite Muslim who lives in Beirut's Fakhri district where Mr. Arafat had his command headquarters from 1969-1982, said: "Now he has something to keep him busy, far from here. I hope he will also deal with his Palestinian opponents far away from us."

However, the nearly 317,000 Palestinian refugees in Lebanon were split. Syrian-backed and fundamentalist Muslim factions, who make up nearly 15 per cent of the community, have declared their opposition to the agreement.

The anti-Arafat Palestinian groups, better known as

Italy denies it paid Aideed's clansmen

ROME (AP) — Italy's Defence Minister Sunday angrily denied a report that his forces in Somalia paid a warlord's clan not to shoot at them and that the Nigerian peacekeepers' refusal to pay sparked a deadly clash.

"How many other unfounded accusations will they invent?" Defence Minister Fabio Fabbri said in a news release.

Mr. Fabbri was meeting Sunday with visiting U.S. Defence Secretary Les Aspin, after Italy criticised a U.S.-led crackdown on fugitive Somalia warlord Mohammad Farrah Aideed and called for negotiations.

Italian officials contend the good relations they developed with the Somalis, aided by a common language in the former Italian colony, have prevented violence as U.N. forces ensure relief shipments to a country shattered by civil war.

Italy has been critical of dead U.S.-led raids in search of Gaddafi, who is held responsible for attacks that have killed dozens of U.N. troops since June.

The Times reported that Italy and Nigerian officers had met the elders a few days before the ambush to ensure a smooth transfer of control at the check point.

The newspaper report said the meeting clansmen told the Nigerians of their financial arrangement with the Italian om

and \$60 a month to each militia man in the area, populated by Gen. Aideed's Habr-Gedir clan.

"After the completely unfounded story on the lack of support" by Italian troops during the ambush, "today we hear the story, equally unfounded and ridiculous that some money was paid to the elders of the neighbouring," Mr. Fabbri said.

"Always against the Italians quality only of having been right," he said.

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Israelis' response to PLO accord far more muted than in Sadat visit

By Allyn Fisher
The Associated Press

has received a far more sober response.

A business-as-usual attitude pervaded most of occupied Jerusalem Friday after Mr. Rabin signed a terse letter recognising the PLO. In the central Ben-Yehuda mall, shoppers were in their pre-Sabbath routine of buying flowers and visiting with friends.

Scepticism was fuelled by the obvious absence of PLO leader Yasser Arafat or any other Arab official at the signing ceremony, a telling absence that showed reconciliation was incomplete.

Distrust of Palestinian intentions was the first sentence uttered by many who were asked what they thought of the

agreement.

"I don't believe the PLO. In my opinion, Rabin gave them something without getting anything in return," said Avi Nataf, 29, an electronics technician.

Mr. Nataf doubted better relations with the PLO would be far reaching enough to ensure that Israel will see a significant cut in their military reserve duty any time soon.

"We may have to do even more reserve duty with all the work that implementing the agreement will take," Mr. Nataf said, referring to the mammoth task of redeploying the army to give Palestinians self-rule in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank city of Jericho.

"But I wouldn't give up more than that," Mrs. Davidian said. "We aren't sure about all of this. We are taking a risk, and we don't feel safe."

Itai Gabai, an 18-year-old who is scheduled to begin his three-year compulsory army service this month, was doubtful the agreement would reduce the risks he faces.

"I think they will just continue with their wars. You can't trust them. Now they will just want more and more land," Gabai said, smoking a cigarette at a sidewalk cafe.

"Next they will get Jerusalem and little, maybe the whole country."

A friend seated next to him, Aviad Avraham, differed.

"Good for Rabin that he has succeeded in bringing peace," Avraham, 17, said. "Recognising the PLO is fine, as long as

they really stop the uprising and terrorism."

Cancer researcher Avi Treves, 47, was more optimistic. "It's a wonderful agreement," he said reaching for some cheese at the supermarket. "It gives us a chance to have peace."

Right-wing

Abdul Rahim Omar dies at 64

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Prominent writer and poet Abdul Rahim Omar died Sunday after undergoing critical cardiac surgery in London.

Renowned for his daily column 'Say a word' in Al Ra'i Arabic daily, Mr. Omar was recognised for his consistent political stands and his poetic talent, having authored two books of poetry.

Mr. Omar (64) was considered by his friends and readers as a "great man and a real poet." He served Jordan in several senior governmental posts including director general of Press and Publications Department, director of Jordan Broadcasting Corporation, founder and president of the Jordanian Writers Association, and as a director of the Culture and Art Department at the Ministry of Information.

Mr. Omar was active in cultural activities, having participated in many national and international festivals.

He was a member of the National Charter Committee and a founding member of the Centre for Freedom, Democracy and Human Rights Studies.

The father of eight and grandfather of 16, Abdul Rahim Omar was born in Layous village near Tulkarem in the occupied West Bank on Aug. 14, 1929. He is described by his children as a compassionate father and teacher who vigorously sought to educate



Abdul Rahim Omar

them.

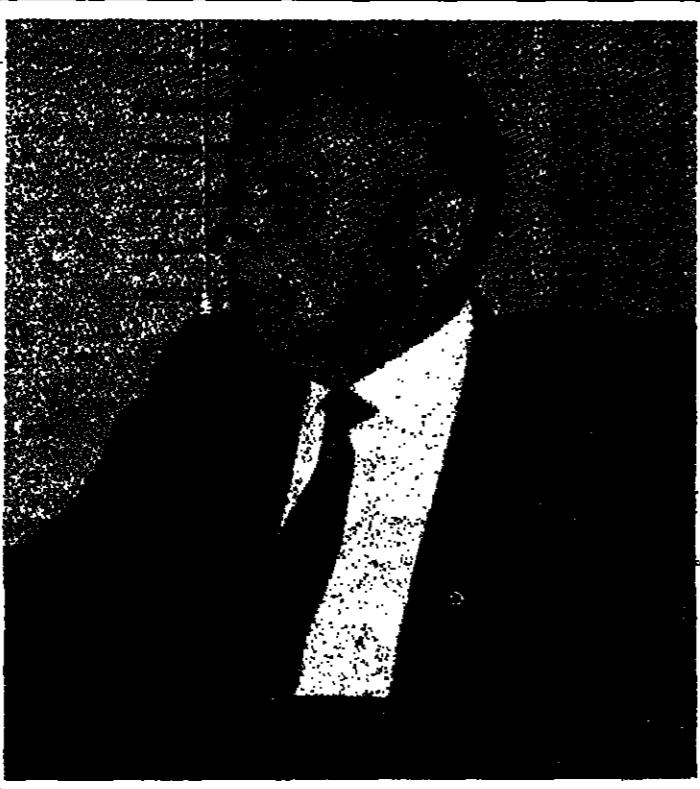
Mr. Omar suffered from diabetes and cardiac problems since 1984. His condition was aggravated in the past few years by ophthalmic problems.

The writer left recently for London for routine check-ups and eye surgery. During his stay in London, he suffered

complications which necessitated an immediate heart surgery. He died 24 hours later.

Abdul Rahim Omar was awarded the Independence Medal of the First Order as well as several other medals from the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Jordan's first army chief dies at 98

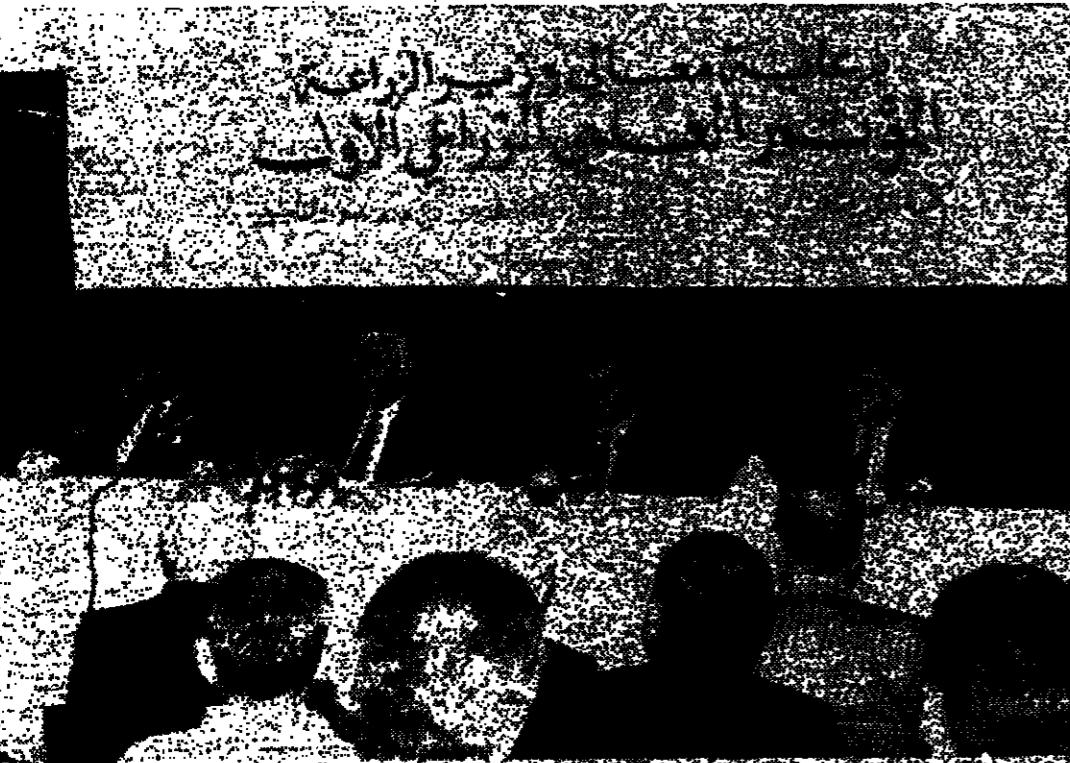


Radi Hassan Innab

AMMAN (J.T.) — Retired Major General Radi Hassan Innab died Sunday at the age of 98. Maj. Gen. Innab was the first Chief of Staff of the Jordanian Armed Forces following the Arabisation of the army's leadership in 1956.

He was born in Nablus in 1895 and joined the ranks of the Great Arab Revolt forces in 1921.

Maj. Gen. Innab held various posts in the Public Security Department and Armed Forces.



Minister of Agriculture Marwan Kamal (second from left) Sunday addresses the opening session of the first Jordanian Scientific Agricultural Conference

Government applies modern technology to increase food production — minister

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Agriculture Marwan Kamal Sunday said the government was applying modern technology in order to increase food production, adding that this was the only means of ensuring more food for the increasing needs of the country.

Addressing the opening of the first Jordanian Scientific Agricultural Conference, held at the University of Jordan, Dr. Kamal said that not only can modern technology increase food, but it can also provide high quality output if production is backed by a continued process of scientific research and the availability of necessary inputs for the farmers.

He said the Ministry of Agric-

culture has implemented development plans and conducted agricultural research projects and training programmes for Jordanian personnel involved in agricultural extension services designed to increase output.

Dr. Kamal reviewed the ministry's efforts to expand cultivated lands for the production of high demand vegetables, to develop the production of fruit and adopt plasticiculture and drip irrigation methods with efficient use of pesticides.

Bassam Saabar, dean of the University of Jordan's Faculty of Agriculture, told the meeting that the faculty's training and research programmes benefited 3,500 agricultural engineers, adding that training continues in order to

improve the quality of products. The two-day conference will review 36 working papers dealing with farming, animal wealth, irrigation and soil, agricultural economics, extension services and food processing among other topics.

On the sidelines of the conference, the university organised an agricultural exhibit which was opened by University President Fawzi Gharaibeh.

The exhibit displays books and other publications on agricultural research, as well as guidelines for farmers and other materials.

The meeting was organised in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture and the Jordan Agricultural Engineers Association.

Chile, Jordan to agree on potash exports

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan and Chile are working on an agreement for the export of Jordanian potash to Chilean markets, according to Rodrigo Diaz Albonico, the under secretary of the Chilean Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Mr. Albonico, who started a three-day visit to Jordan Saturday, was speaking Sunday following his meeting with Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali with whom he reviewed Jordanian-Chilean cooperation, particularly in the economic and trade arenas.

The Chilean envoy explained that Santiago and Amman are already bound by an agreement for mutual cooperation in cultural and technical fields.

Discussion with the prime minister also covered regional issues and international affairs, including the Middle East peace process, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Mr. Albonico said that he hoped that His Majesty King Hussein would respond favourably to an invitation extended by President Patricio Aylwin last year to visit Chile, which has maintained strong ties with Jordan for more than 40 years.

Referring to the Arab-Israeli peace talks, Mr. Albonico said Chile strongly supports the peace process on the basis of U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 and also supports the Palestinian-Israeli move towards creating autonomy rule for the Palestinians as an effective step in bringing peace to the region.

He said his visit, which is part of a tour that will also take him to Syria, Egypt, Lebanon, Tunisia and Greece is aimed at further bolstering Chilean-Jordanian ties in all fields.

Mr. Albonico earlier met with Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Sataan Al Hassan and reviewed developments in Chilean-Jordanian relations and the Middle East peace process.

He reiterated his country's support for the implementation of U.N. resolutions concerning the Palestine question and said Chile looked forward to further cementing its ties with countries of the region.

At another meeting, with the foreign ministry's Secretary General Hussein Hammami, Mr.

Albonico reviewed regional and international issues of common concern to Jordan and Chile.

Chile's Ambassador to Jordan Nelson Hadad Heresi, who attended the meetings, said the

envoy was carrying a personal message from President Aylwin to King Hussein renewing an invitation for the King and Her Majesty Queen Noor to visit Chile.

He said Mr. Albonico was hoping to strengthen the ties of friendship, trade and cooperation between the two countries and increase relations at the political, cultural and economic levels.



Chilean Foreign Ministry Rodrigo Diaz Albonico (centre) and Chilean Ambassador to Jordan Nelson Hadad Heresi (Petra photo)



Street vendors in downtown Amman may soon have areas officially designated as open markets where they will be able to sell their merchandise (file photo)

Amman to allocate space for open markets

AMMAN (Petra) — The Amman Municipality is preparing new locations for open markets where street vendors will be able to sell their merchandise.

Speaking after a tour of the central downtown business area of Amman, Mayor Mamdooh Al Abbadi said the measure is aimed at protecting the interests of the store owners in the downtown area and providing a way for street vendors to earn a living.

Store owners and merchants complained to the mayor during his tour about the problems created by the presence of street vendors.

The mayor said the municipality will also re-examine its decision concerning kiosks because some of their owners have been abusing trade facilities offered them by the municipality.

The municipality is studying

the prospect of developing the entire central region of Amman to create a tourist and investment attraction centre out of this area, said Dr. Abbadi.

The mayor toured several areas and talked to citizens and business owners. Later, he held a meeting with an invited group of merchants at the municipality to discuss questions related to the development of the downtown areas.

One of the questions discussed was the asphaltating of streets, a process which the merchants claimed raises the street level causing rain water to flow into the ground floor stores of the city.

Other issues discussed included the prospect of assigning certain streets for pedestrians only and the building of sanitary services in the downtown areas.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- * Art exhibition by Iraqi artist Noori Al Rawi at Baladina Art Gallery.
- * Exhibition by artists Mohammad Al Ameri and Ghassan Abu Laban at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- * Art exhibition by Munther Al Ma'ani at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- * Art exhibition by Egyptian artist H. Bikar at the Balqa' Art Gallery in Fuheis.
- * Paintings exhibition by Amor Aoudens and Salam Kanaan at the Alia Art Gallery.
- * Permanent exhibition and "Chair" Exhibition at Darat Al Funan of the Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation in Jabal Lubweh (10 a.m.-7 p.m. except Fridays).
- * Exhibition of paintings by Jordanian artist Bishara Najjar at Esbella Art Gallery, Amra Shopping Centre.

BUILDING FOR RENT

Consists of 3 storeys. The ground and first floors consist of 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 Salons, dining room, kitchen, three verandas with an area of 290 square metres each. The second floor consists of two flats each with an area of 145 square metres and each consists of 2 bedrooms, hall and salon, kitchen and bathroom.

The building is surrounded by a spacious garden. Preferably to be let as a whole to diplomatic mission.

Location: Um Uthaina, Ha'il Street, behind Amra Hotel

Call tel.: 837442

Election advertisements warning reiterated

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Department of Press and Publications at the Ministry of Information Sunday circulated a memorandum to local newspapers, reminding them to closely abide by the provision of the 1986 election law which prohibits the publication of any advertisement in any form for any candidate running for the Nov. 8 parliamentary elections.

Last month the department sent a circular to the press that

any violation of article 60 of the election regulation is punishable by law.

The circular said that the law made it clear that no advertisement should appear in the press announcing the nomination of a candidate by a certain tribe or the opening of an office for the candidate or even a statement by a clan voicing support for candidates.

According to the law and a statement by the Ministry of Interior on August 7, cam-

Jordan to switch to winter time Oct. 1

Jordan (Petra) — Winter hours in Jordan begin on Friday Oct. 1, 1993, according to an official communiqué issued by prime minister Abdul Salam Al Majali Sunday. The statement said that winter

time will begin at midnight on Thursday Sept. 30, 1993 when clocks will be turned back one hour. With the time change Jordan will be two hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT).



ARAB BANK
Announces the opening of
a new office at
Industrial Area
(Wadi Seer)
Banking services started on
Saturday 11 September 1993

ARAB BANK

Industrial Area Office / Wadi Seer
P.O.Box 140025 Wadi Seer
Tel : 810311 , Fax : 823671

ARAB BANK
GENERAL MANAGEMENT
SHMEISANI - AMMAN
P.O.BOX 950544-5, TELEPHONE : 660115 , 660131
TELEX : 23091 ARABNK JO , FAX : 606793

Opinion & Analysis

JORDAN TIMES, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 1993

Jordan Times

An independent Arab-political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation.
Established 1975

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Beyond the handshake

THE SIGNING ceremony at the White House of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO)-Israel interim self-rule agreement for the Palestinians, on what has come to be known as super Monday, is a milestone in the history of the Middle East. "Its significance goes beyond that of the Camp David accords struck between Egypt and Israel in 1979 because this time the principal antagonists in the region's primary conflict will put their seal of approval on an agreement that may set the stage for either the permanent solution of the Arab-Israeli conflict or its flare-up into new ominous proportions.

The Palestinian question has always been the core issue in the Middle East crisis. This dimension of the area's main conflict has been at the centre of all the other regional problems and has contributed to their explosions in one way or another. No wonder then that euphoria, mixed with fears and anxieties, will dominate today's signing ceremony of the Oslo accord.

Starting with this momentous Monday, the shape of the Middle East could irrevocably change. The cards of the regions' players would be so dramatically reshuffled, leaving them with more questions than answers.

There are already danger signals emanating from both the Israeli and Palestinian sides. Saturday saw the beginning of an armed clash between Palestinians in the West Bank who view the agreement in a different light. The intensity of the civil strife between the various Palestinian factions might escalate into dangerous proportions that could wreak havoc with the future of the embryonic Palestinian self-rule. His Majesty King Hussein highlighted this danger when he called in a television interview Saturday on all Palestinians to close their ranks and face the challenge in unity and determination.

Some Palestinians will no doubt find formidable difficulties in living with the new reality that has dawned upon them. But so would some Israelis, who might express their anger with the Rabin government's "betrayal" of the Zionist dreams not only with words but also with extremist actions. Their anger might be directed at Israeli supporters of the accords as well as Palestinians in the occupied territories.

The biggest problem with the deal that will be signed today might well be that the houses of both the Israelis and the Palestinians are divided. There is always a threat to the continuity of the peace process if the Likud Party regains power in the future or if a new radical Palestinian leadership assumes power. However, what could tip the balance in favour or against the Palestinian-Israeli peace treaty is intervention by all peace-loving nations on behalf of the new process that is just starting to take shape. The Arab World needs to rally behind the Palestinians in full force, so as to strengthen their bargaining position from now on and to help them put their house in order right from the start. The international community, especially countries that have abundant economic resources, have to come into the picture with much needed aid and political support to ensure success of the process. But, above all, the Palestinians and the Israelis themselves, as represented by their leaders, have to be able to show the whole world that their commitment to peace will not end with an historic handshake in Washington today. The handshake will be of the utmost symbolic importance, but it is what follows that will determine the future for all of us in this part of the world.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i Arabic daily Sunday described the document signed by the PLO, recognising Israel, as the verdict of a court that tried the victim (The Palestinian people) forcing it to apologise for its past. It was as if the Palestinians were apologising for demanding their rights and fighting for their freedom, said Mahmoud Rimawi. In the document, the PLO renounced terrorism and acts of violence, but what about the Israelis and the Jewish settlers who are armed to the teeth, asked the writer. The PLO has recognised Israel's right to existence, but what about the 1967 border line and the Palestinian rights to self-determination and a state of their own on Palestinian soil? he asked. Israel has to date defined no boundaries for the Jewish nation and has therefore left the door open for future ambitious expansions, added the writer. According to the PLO-Israeli deal, the settlements will remain on Arab soil, settlers will remain and in full control of their settlements while the Israeli armed forces will remain in control of the overall security, said the writer. The writer said that the deal should have included compromises in both sides since it is Israel and the Palestinians who will either benefit from the agreement to live in peace and security or go to war at any time in the future. He said that the whole PLO-Israeli deal leaves only a narrow path for the Palestinians to enter into the next stage of struggling for their full rights and statehood.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour said that the mosque sermons on Fridays should be directed solely towards religious affairs and not towards politics. Mohammad Subeih said it is the right of each person to support or oppose the Gaza-Jericho first deal, between the PLO and Israel, but it is not the right of the mosque preacher to attack the agreement especially at a time when he is ignorant of details. I do not call for the preacher to present an eloquent speech reflecting his command of the Arabic language, nor should he serve as an organ in an election campaign, said the writer. It is true that people's feelings are affected by the political events in the region, and it is also true that some people are frustrated by and their hearts are filled with despair about a host of events, but the preacher must opt for reason as he is not in a position to bring about change in a political decision that is not his own, continued the writer. It does not become a preacher to accuse others of being traitors and enemy's agents in front of worshippers and it is rather more important for the preacher to address the worshippers in matters of their immediate concern and daily life, he said. The writer said that since every one of us has a responsibility to shoulder, it is more logical for the preachers to give the people time to think and analyse the situation for themselves. He said that the main priority now is to enhance national unity.

Weekly Political Pulse

Arab-Israeli talks on an irreversible course

The new developments that are sweeping the entire Middle East in the wake of the Oslo Israeli-PLO accord are a principal feature of the new order. No wonder the whole comity of nations moved expeditiously not only to endorse it but also to fund it. In many ways, the new and rejuvenated peace process resembles a locomotive that is effectively unstoppable. Those forces that stand in its way may end up being dismantled or destroyed altogether.

That does not mean that the road to Jerusalem would be strewn with roses. Effective obstacles will be in the way. It is a fact that the Israelis and the Palestinians, the principal parties in the rekindled peace process, are deeply divided. No matter how relevant the global support to the accord is the support of the peoples directly affected by it remains critical. The world will have to closely watch the developments on both fronts to monitor the direction of the respective masses. If there is a growing consensus for peace, then the foundation of the recent agreement will be further cemented.

From the look of things, the course of peace between Israel and its Arab neighbour appears to be irreversible, notwithstanding the stiff opposition. The proponents of the deal could readily point out that there is simply no viable alternative for the Palestinians, at least in the short-or intermediate-run. Status quo even while the Palestinian uprising goes on raging cannot be counted on to alone change effectively the equation in the area against the backdrop of the new international order and the Arab realities.

But such arguments in favour of the newly discovered peace between Israel and the Palestinians require a continuous

dialogue with the rejectionists. No one would want to see a bloodbath in the West Bank or a civil war in Israel. Such dark developments could wreck everything constructed in the way to peace and deprive the peoples of the sweet fruits of their efforts to have peace reign supreme in their midst.

It would be a cardinal mistake to dismiss the counterforces to the Norwegian-brokered accord as marginal or inconsequential. Greater efforts need to be exerted to show respect and appreciation for the counterviews. Since the newly-arrived deal is based on a bitter-sweet compromise, there are some elements of truth and justification on both sides of the fence.

In the final analysis, what could break the back of either school of thought are the developments on the Jordanian and Syrian tracks. Should there be a breakthrough, as expected on both fronts, the momentum for peace in the region would be boosted. Should there be a stalemate, however, on both or even one of the fronts, the regional consensus for peaceful co-existence with Israel could suffer a deadly blow.

There are conflicting signals on the fate of the Jordanian and Syrian tracks. Amman declared a few months ago that it had virtually sealed an agreement with Israel but decided to withhold signature pending the registration of meaningful progress on the Palestinian front. Recently Jordanian officials denied that there is an agreement with Israel and insisted that all that is in offer is a probable agreement on an agenda; nothing more and nothing less. Agreement on an agenda, it was pointed out, is not a prescription to an accord. "The agenda has been misrepresented as an accord," His Majesty was quoted as saying last week. "In

fact," the King continued, "it is an agenda of all the topics that have to be discussed in great depth." This means in effect that there is no agreement whatsoever between Israel and Jordan in spite of earlier declarations by even high officials that all is set for signature between the two parties.

Even if all that Jordan has agreed to with Israel is a list of subjects to be negotiated, this is no small feat. There are miles and miles that separate a consent to a mutually agreed upon agenda and agreement on its items. It seems that what the Jordanian-Israeli teams have achieved over the last months is very little if all that they are about to agree to is a listing of the subjects to be discussed and negotiated. Nearly two years have passed since the Madrid conference was launched and much more was expected to have been concluded. Now it seems that not much had really been done or achieved.

The Syrian side is also anything but upbeat about its negotiating process with Israel. Every time there were rumours that Damascus and Tel Aviv were on the verge of a breakthrough, denials from both sides quickly refuted it. In fact, if there are no real advancements on the Syrian and Jordanian fronts, the prospects for the PLO-Israeli deal would diminish simply because lack of progress on these two tracks could effectively pull the rug from under the feet of the Palestinian-Israeli track.

The major players therefore need to be careful lest they draw too hasty comfort from the breakthrough on the Palestinian front without matching that momentous achievement with equal progress on the other fronts. Otherwise, the proponents of the Oslo deal would be further undermined.

LETTERS

A wholesome peace

To the Editor:

THE DECLARATION of principles on interim self-government arrangements was not solely tailored to suit Israel perceptions of self-interest. These principles were labouriously engineered to accommodate Israel's empirical needs of self-interest on the basis that such needs are part and parcel of the mutuality of interests with the Palestinians. However, this does not mean that the Israelis are being philanthropic about these arrangements — far from it!

Ever mindful of the sanctity of their demands, a number of which remain so far non-negotiable, the Israelis elected to coexist with the Palestinians by juxtaposing their modus vivendi against that of an interim modus operandi of five years. The "declaration of principles" per se seems to be, in form and substance, an extension of the Camp David accords, rather than an application of U.N. resolutions, namely 242 and 338.

Evidently, both the Palestinians and the Israelis have come to realise that in this process of negotiation for a comprehensive peace, each can only achieve what they negotiate for, and not what they consider themselves entitled to. Having accepted this fact as common ground for further negotiations, the Israelis and Palestinians have agreed to distance the negotiations from the immediacy of U.N. resolutions. As a result, they managed to agree on the substantive modalities of the "declaration of principles."

When all is said and done, the Palestinians, after their sojourn of five years in the purgatory of expectations, will again have a state of their own. Throughout this period, it remains incumbent on Israel to see to it that the realisation of a viable and peaceful Palestine is unencumbered. For peace is whole for Israel and Palestine, and wholesome for both.

Ludwig W. Tamari,
Potomac, Maryland,
U.S.A.

Israel and the Palestinians see a way to coexist

By Thomas L. Friedman

WASHINGTON — On Nov. 2, 1917, the British foreign secretary, Arthur Balfour, issued a declaration in London stating that His Majesty's Government was ready to support the creation of a national home for the Jewish people in Palestine. The Zionist movement took that one paragraph promise, and from it, step by step, erected the state of Israel.

Nearly 76 years later, on Aug. 30, 1993, the Israeli government approved an agreement reached in secret with the Palestine Liberation Organisation sanctioning the creation of an autonomous Palestinian homeland in the Gaza Strip and Jericho. This is nothing less than the Israeli Balfour Declaration for the Palestinians, and if they build on it as the Zionists did, there is every chance it will lead to their own state.

This remarkable autonomy plan was worked out by Israeli and PLO officials during 17 secret meetings in Norway and other European sites, and initiated on Aug. 20. Under its detailed provisions, the Israeli army would first withdraw from the Gaza Strip and Jericho, where Palestinians would then start running their own affairs, and even have their own lightly armed police force. Elsewhere in the West Bank, Palestinians would begin assuming control over many aspects of daily life, including taxes, health care, education, tourism, trade and agriculture. Elections for a ruling Palestinian council would be held within nine months of the signing of the agreement.

If implemented, this plan, coupled with the declarations of mutual recognition that Israel and the PLO are now trying to work out, constitutes the most fundamental change in Arab-Israeli politics since the conflict began — more sweeping even than Anwar Sadat's dramatic visit to Jerusalem in 1977.

For almost 100 years the Israeli-Palestinian conflict has proven insoluble because the two sides would not recognise the other as legitimate enemies. Israel dismissed the Palestinians as either terrorists or individuals, not a nation with legitimate claims on historic Palestine; the Palestinians dismissed the Israelis as either "colonisers" or members of a religious community, not a nation with rights in the land of Israel.

If there is a reason to be optimistic now, it is not because the two sides have agreed on what the solution is — that will

take a lot more time. It is because after all these years they seem to be finally agreeing on what the problem is. It is not a question of who is going to own the whole pie, but what size each side's slice should be.

It is still very possible that Israelis and Palestinians will not be able to answer that question with mutual satisfaction, but the big breakthrough is that both are finally asking the right question. They are finally recognising each other as legitimate enemies that have to be reconciled — not ignored, demonised or defeated.

"I am ready for painful compromises," said Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin of Israel. "Peace is not made with friends. Peace is made with enemies, some of whom — and I won't name names — I loathe very much."

The stakes here are enormous,

because the intercommunal conflict between Israelis and Palestinians has always been at the core of both the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Jewish-Muslim conflict.

Hardliners on both sides understand fully the implications of this tentative agreement, and that is why they are so agitated. It will almost certainly lead to the creation of a Palestinian affirmation of the right of the Jewish people to a homeland in Israel. The intriguing question is whether the leaders who initiated this deal understand not only its rights, but its responsibilities.

in Washington, the American-Israel Public Affairs Committee, will soon be using its powerful muscles to lobby Congress for aid to both Israel and the nascent Palestinian state, because Israel cannot afford a Somalia on its doorstep?

Speaking of the American role in producing this deal, it was modest. That is as it should be (although President Clinton has shown striking indifference to the apparent breakthrough, doing nothing to publicly encourage the parties). The United States was always at best a midwife. There was never going to be an Israeli-Palestinian accord until the parties themselves were ready to take the fundamental steps on their own for their own reasons.

Even if they have done the right thing for the wrong reasons — Mr. Arafat to save his political career when his coffers were empty and his enemies gathered at the door and Mr. Rabin to save his government from irrelevancy and to get rid of the Gaza hole — the end results could be positive, and they appear to be sparing Jordan, Syria and Lebanon to join in.

Hardliners on both sides understand fully the implications of this tentative agreement, and that is why they are so agitated. It will almost certainly lead to the creation of a Palestinian affirmation of the right of the Jewish people to a homeland in Israel. The intriguing question is whether the leaders who initiated this deal understand not only its rights, but its responsibilities.

It is a reminder, though, of the limits of the American role in the post-cold war world, where the fragmentation of power and the breakup of the two great ideological camps has left regional players feeling very much on their own — except in one regard: they will send us the bill.

Details, details. When Mr. Peres went to see Secretary of State Warren Christopher and the American diplomat began quizzing him on the details of the accord, Mr. Peres stopped at one point and quoted Winston Churchill, saying: "You don't leap over a chasm in two steps." If you start thinking about all the details you are paralysed. And that is the essence of what has happened — a giant leap into a future whose contours can only be glimpsed. That leap itself will change the landscape, create new realities, new expectations, new possibilities and new problems. But much of the old landscape, with settlers who won't be budged, refugees who won't be able to go home and fundamentalists who may never reconcile, will remain. The question is whether the vision of a common future that motivated a tiny group of Israeli and Palestinian leaders to strike this deal will be able to transcend and eventually level the mountain of mistrust that most of their peoples still share — The New York Times.

Protecting Arafat

Do Israel's leaders fully grasp that they are planting the seeds of a legitimate Palestinian state on their borders — that their Mossad intelligence service will henceforth have responsibility for protecting Mr. Arafat, not stalking him, and that the pro-Israel lobby

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After a thirteen-year lapse, I recently returned to Jordan accompanied by my wife, for whom the visit was the first in the Middle East. Three weeks or so later we had had a truly wonderful experience, which, unfortunately, was marred by two incidents. The first occurred on arrival in Aqaba. After driving from Petra, passing by Wadi Rum, we arrived at our hotel (not the government-owned one) on the beach. It was a hotel I remembered fondly from my last visit to Jordan. What a disappointment!

The room was in poor condition; it was impossible to talk over the noise from the air conditioner; the bathroom lights failed to work and the room smelt of stale air.

I was soon to discover that this poor impression of Aqaba as a holiday resort reflected not only in the quality of the hotel, but also in the poorly monitored beaches, both private and municipal.

We moved to a newer hotel, set back from the beach. It was excellent, but I did wonder if it would be the same standard in a decade or so. It would appear that the Aqaba hoteliers have failed to observe a fundamental rule of business, which is reinvestment. This does not necessarily mean buying more land for development, thereby scarring the landscape further, but investing in order to maintain the existing facilities to a high standard.

The Aqaba coastline is relatively small and is easily overused. Therefore, for ecological and health reasons, the beaches alone need to be kept clear, with paper, rubbish and cleaning facilities available.

The "get rich quickly" and the high profit policy only work in the short term because the resort becomes overused and abused and in the long term the environment is destroyed.

And this leads me to the second thing that marred my stay in Aqaba. I was saddened to find that while skin-diving, the visibility was worse than around some of the polluted areas of the British coast.

Consumer rubbish is all over the seabed close to the shore, the corals are dying and when we left the water, my wife and I discovered with horror that our bodies were covered in foul-smelling water.

The health implications are obvious, and I was left wondering whether this was complacency or oversight on the part of the planners.

This is the Jordanian children's inheritance. One should not be selfish, but dispose of the household and industrial waste thoughtfully.

Jordan can learn from the mistakes the rest of the world has made by polluting the seas. The Kingdom's small coastline must be protected by us all if present and future generations wish to enjoy the full whilst being able to guarantee a healthy source of income for the tourist industry.

No matter how well tourism is promoted, the first impressions gained by the visitor, of the country's facilities, resorts and amenities, are the lasting ones and will be the fundamental key to success.

(Maj.) James Hazou,
British Army Air Corps,
Middle Wallop,
England.

PLO-Israeli agreement — half empty or half full?

By Jonathan Wright

Reuters
TUNIS — Like pessimists arguing about a glass of water, opponents of Mr. Arafat's peace agreement with Israel complain that it's half-empty. Optimistic supporters welcome what it does contain and say there may be more to come.

On both sides of the debate Palestinians share much the same aims — an independent state including the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem.

Their differences begin when they start to talk about the nature of the Israeli state, the balance of power between the two sides and the dynamics of a negotiating process which may lead to a permanent solution.

Opponents deeply suspicious of Israel's intentions, expect traps in every corner.

They see a monolithic Israeli state, with overwhelming military superiority, taking advantage of the Palestinians' weakness to drag them into a form of voluntary servitude.

By signing treaties with its Arab neighbours, Israel would simultaneously break out of the long Arab siege — the main card with which the Arabs could have bargained, they say.

"Mutual recognition will lead to Israeli domination of the whole region. We will continue our struggle," said Fathi Shukri of the movement Islamic Jihad in Palestine.

"The agreement will put us in a position of complete economic dependence on Israel ... and are we destined to be the bridge

across which Israel reaches the Arab World?" Abdallah Hourani asked a meeting of the PLO Executive Committee.

But Mr. Arafat's supporters see the relationship as much more equal. The PLO may have had to come to terms with Israel because its back was up against the wall, but Israel also had compelling reasons to make peace, they say.

"In abstract terms the PLO has obviously given a great deal," said PLO official Jamil Hilal.

"But we are gambling that the dynamics of the situation will work in our favour."

Under the agreement Israel will make an early withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho.

The rest of the West Bank will have a lesser degree of self-rule while Israel and the PLO negotiate the final status of the territories and problems like refugees and East Jerusalem.

The PLO had to take the risk of going into an agreement in which the outcome is not known. There's no commitment on a Palestinian state, on Jerusalem, on borders," said Hilal.

"But a Palestinian state is now a foregone conclusion. It's just a question of time and manoeuvring. The alternative for the Israelis is to say they do not want peace," he added.

Like the pessimists with their glass of water, the opponents say these omissions are the fatal flaw.

What they want is a watertight legal document that maps out the future of the Levant for the next decade and neatly matches the resolutions they have passed at

PLO meetings.

"The future of the refugees, sovereignty and the right of self-determination will only be discussed three years after the declaration (self-rule agreement). So we have three years of anxiety followed by two years of negotiations," said Shafiq Al Hoot, an opponent who has resigned from the PLO leadership.

"Self-rule in Gaza and Jericho can't go far without a beginning to establishing land," he added.

Faisal Al Husseini, coordinator of the Palestinian team negotiating openly with Israel in Washington, disagrees.

"We are saying the Gaza-Jericho agreement is the start and not the end," he told Palestinians in the occupied territories.

Abu Mazen, the PLO man at the centre of the secret contacts which forged the deal, says he believes the PLO has a hidden strength because the Israeli government realises its interests lie in cooperation with the Arabs, not

confrontation.

This is a moment to dwell on effects rather than causes. The words that Palestinians and Israelis have been speaking to and about each other in secret for months and in public for a week take on their own meaning and momentum now that they have been loosened. In this moment, two bitter adversaries are examining and adjusting core beliefs about human nature and its potential for change. They are not just trying out diplomatic formulas for tactical advantage.

Ending the war with the Palestinians would in a sense be the final act of the Holocaust.

The West Bankers repeatedly professed

understandable fears of the Jewish people of being history's victim cannot be stilled until the Arab world's political leaders and the Palestinian people have formally and substantively abandoned all ambitions of destroying the state of Israel.

This left an opening for Mr. Peres, who had been walled off from any significant role in the peace negotiations or Israeli diplomacy by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. Mr. Peres turned to secret contacts with the PLO in Oslo as an alternative to the Washington talks. He dragged Mr. Rabin, and the Clinton administration, along once he could ready to accept the interim arrangements that had been on offer to the Palestinians since the 1979 Camp David peace treaty.

Drowning in a sea of financial and political turmoil caused by his disastrous support for Iraq's Saddam Hussein in the Gulf war, Mr. Rabin grasped at the lifeline in his direction by Mr. Peres.

While he attempts to disguise it in his flamboyant rhetoric in Tunis, the PLO chairman accepted in Oslo that his organisation will play the role of enforcer of any potential Israeli-Palestinian peace on the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip.

"Gaza and Jericho first" means that the PLO must establish order by ending the intifada in Gaza and Jericho as a precondition for

further Israeli withdrawal. The PLO must also convert itself into a normal political party in these two areas while they remain under Israeli physical control.

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Gaza and Jericho as a national

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morally and physically to create a

state in its image.

Just as the "Gaza and Jericho first" plan represents an opportunity to end an Israeli nightmare rooted in the Holocaust and five Arab-Israeli wars, it brings an end to a Palestinian dream of reconstructing pre-1947 Palestine under PLO control. Even if PLO hardliners ultimately torpedo the accord, Mr. Arafat's tentative acceptance forces a sea change in Palestinian psychology and goals.

Mr. Peres rescued a drowning Arafat believing that the PLO chairman could be useful to him and to Israel in the changed environment that the end of the cold war has brought to the Middle East. This is the sea change for Israel, which has long worked to eradicate Palestinian political leadership to ensure that no deal could be made.

Mr. Peres explained to me his

vision of the new Middle East, in which Arabs and Israelis must cooperate against common threats ranging from political extremism to the creeping desertification of their lands, last February during a visit to Washington: "We saw in the Gulf war that missiles and non-conventional warheads make a national defence alone impossible. We must have a regional defence and a political approach" to the Arab-Israeli conflict. "We must reorganise everything and re-examine all roots ... Maybe Arab dictators don't change, but they no longer have Russian support or the opportunities they once had."

This was about the same time that he was entering serious talks with the PLO in Oslo, about which, of course, he said not a word to me — nor, apparently, to his prime minister.

For once, Peres the visionary worked hand in glove with Peres the Machiavellian deal-maker. Whatever comes next, he has broken taboos that needed to be destroyed for an Israeli-Palestinian peace to have a chance — The Washington Post.

Munir Makdah, disillusioned commander of Mr. Arafat's Fatah guerrillas in Lebanon, refuses to consider the family property a "phantom inheritance."

"We will take it back, in 10, 50 or 100 years," the bearded 33-year-old said, sitting under an inscription of the Koran, at a Fateh office in Ein Al Hilweh.

His first mission as a boy fighter was learning to fire mortars across the Lebanese border at Israeli settlements.

"We were fedayeen (men of sacrifice) then, fighting to regain all of Palestine," Mr. Makdah said, his brown eyes shining with pride.

"Palestine is my land. Whenever I slipped into Israel to carry out operations there, I found it hard to leave. I couldn't believe I was in Palestine," said Mr. Makdah.

He declined to give details of these operations, except to say that he once reached Nahariya, a coastal town 9 kms south of the Lebanese border.

Mr. Makdah said he has already seen his five children, aged 1 to 9, on the path he has followed.

"I give them hand grenades and revolvers to play with so they will get attached to the revolution," he said. "They love it."

Economic disparity is risky

(Continued from page 1)

Which Israel are we recognising? Is it Israel plus the territories occupied, or is it Israel in the context of 242 and 338 ... ?"

Answering a question on the so-called Gaza-Jericho first option, the Regent also emphasised Jordan's concerns of national security.

"The main issue that concerns us are security, that is to say cooperative security in the region as a whole ..."

"The Israelis even regard the

question of the tariff regime in terms of trade and their \$60 billion economy. (It is a) potential tremendous threat for the countries of the region..."

"We regard not only borders but the whole gamut of refugees, water, the issues that were part of the multilateral discussions as issues of direct concern to the region and to governments in the region that cannot be relegated to discussion simply in the

Palestinian-Israeli track..."

Mideast turns a page today

(Continued from page 1)

Jerusalem as its capital, side-by-side with the state of Israel, will be created," he said.

The delegation with Arafat included members of the Palestinian "government-in-exile," such as Mr. Yasser Abed Rabbo, two PLO architects of the accord which was thrashed out with Israeli officials in Oslo.

A notable absentee in the PLO delegation was the organisation's political department chief and acting foreign minister, Farouk Kaddoumi, who opposes the accord.

Mr. Arafat said in an interview published Sunday that he planned to be in Jericho in a "matter of weeks" even though the autonomy plan allocates up to six months to implement an Israel withdrawal.

"I'll live in Jericho and in Gaza. I intend on living in both places," Mr. Arafat told Israeli journalists in an interview published in the mass-circulation daily *Yediot Ahronot*.

"It's a matter of weeks, several weeks, at most ten weeks," Mr. Arafat answered when asked when he planned to arrive in Jericho.

About 300 well-wishers greeted Mr. Rabin and Mr. Peres, some blowing kisses and throwing flowers at them as they arrived at Ben Gurion airport near Tel Aviv before Mr. Rabin left for Washington.

Before the vote, however, Interior Minister Aryeh Deri resigned from the government, raising doubts as to whether his six-member Shas party would vote for the agreement when it is brought before the 120-seat parliament.

Mr. Deri and other Shas officials have been the subject of a long corruption scandal and have charged the government with deliberately targeting the party because of its growing influence.

Mr. Deri's resignation could lead the ultra-religious Shas to quit the ruling coalition, leaving Mr. Rabin with a minority government.

said "definitely yes."

Tarawneh to represent Jordan

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Clinton said in Houston, Texas, later Saturday that he expected Jordan and Israel to formalise their agenda for peace talks "soon."

Dr. Marwan Muasher, head of the Jordan Information Bureau in Washington and spokesman for the Kingdom's peace negotiating team, said Saturday that Jordan and Israel hoped to announce agreement on the agenda on Tuesday, probably at a joint news conference at the State Department.

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The Management

Mideast — the new momentum for change

By Jim Hoagland

WASHINGTON — In the end, Shimon Peres and Yasser Arafat turned to each other because they had no place else to go. Their joint desperation leaves their joint draft political accord vulnerable to potshots from all sides. But the agreement sets in motion an Israeli-Palestinian chain reaction that offers hope for an end to nearly 100 years of civil war in the Holy Land.

This is a moment to dwell on effects rather than causes. The words that Palestinians and Israelis have been speaking to and about each other in secret for months and in public for a week take on their own meaning and momentum now that they have been loosened. In this moment, two bitter adversaries are examining and adjusting core beliefs about human nature and its potential for change. They are not just trying out diplomatic formulas for tactical advantage.

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vision of the new Middle East, in which Arabs and Israelis must cooperate against common threats ranging from political extremism to the creeping desertification of their lands, last February during a visit to Washington: "We saw in the Gulf war that missiles and non-conventional warheads make a national defence alone impossible. We must have a regional defence and a political approach" to the Arab-Israeli conflict. "We must reorganise everything and re-examine all roots ... Maybe Arab dictators don't change, but they no longer have Russian support or the opportunities they once had."

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One family's exile, hope and, now, disillusionment

By Donna Abu-Nasr
The Associated Press

SIDON, Lebanon — Inspired by a man he had never met, Munir Makdah left school at age 10 to fight for a land he had never seen.

In the next 23 years, this Palestinian refugee grew from child guerrilla

Egypt starts export guarantees with French help

CAIRO (R) — Egypt opened an export credit guarantee agency Sunday, in partnership with the French export credit agency Coface, to encourage its exporters to venture into new markets and offer better terms of payment.

Export Development Bank of Egypt (EDBE) Chairman Hazem Al Beblawi, who set up the Export Credit Guarantee Company of Egypt, said it would provide insurance to cover exporters against non-payment on shipments they had made.

"The Egyptian exporter has been reluctant to offer the kind of payment terms he needs to get sales. Now he will be much more aggressive," Mr. Beblawi told Reuters late Saturday.

"The deal with Coface is very important for us. We have no experience but we are not starting from zero because we will have their experience. It is a sort of partnership which will reduce the overall risk," he added.

Under the deal, Coface will co-insure Egyptian exporters, joining them to a pool of French exporters and splitting up the risk proportionally. A Coface officer will work in Egypt and there will be a communications link between the Paris and Cairo agencies.

Egypt has suffered a chronic trade deficit for decades. In 1991,

U.S. companies seek more trade with South Africa

JOHANNESBURG (R) — A U.S. trade fair has made it clear American companies want to expand trade with South Africa as sanctions lift, but violence and political uncertainty are keeping investment away.

Fair organiser David Altman of Next International Marketing Consultants said he had achieved its aim of reintroducing Americans and South Africans to each other after decades of apartheid isolation.

"I think we've opened a window for the business communities of both the United States and South Africa to meet each other and talk to each other," he told Reuters.

The fair was opened Tuesday by Thabo Mbeki, chairman of the African National Congress (ANC) who told the businessmen the ANC expected to call for the lifting of remaining economic sanctions by the end of the month.

ANC President Nelson Mandela also toured the fair, with about 200 companies on the ground and 800 represented, and urged Americans to invest in the New South Africa.

Mr. Altman said the interest shown by Mr. Mandela and Mr.

the last year for which figures were available, imports of 25.22 billion pounds (\$7.51 billion) were more than double exports of 11.76 billion Egyptian pounds (\$3.50 billion).

The government, under political pressure over prices driven up by market-oriented economic reforms, would also like to see a surge in exports to help lead the economy out of a two-year recession.

Mr. Beblawi said the new agency, starting with 10 million Egyptian pounds (\$3 million) paid-up capital and a preferred loan of 50 million pounds (\$16 million) from the government, could help Egyptian firms regain markets they lost when communism collapsed in eastern Europe.

Egypt's extensive trade with the communist bloc under centrally-managed trade protocols has been ruptured by economic turmoil since the collapse of the Soviet Union.

EDBE has taken a 30 per cent stake in the export credit guarantee agency and provided many of its staff. The state-owned National Investment Bank has 20 per cent and three state-owned insurance firms have 30 per cent between them.

The remaining 20 per cent of stock has been distributed largely to three state-owned banks to sell on to the public.

Russian national airline could be split up

MOSCOW (R) — The international wing of Russia's national airline Aeroflot could be split into four parts due to a decision by the state privatisation agency, a senior Aeroflot official said.

"We are not sure that Aeroflot will stay in one piece," Vladimir Tikhonov, head of the international commercial department at Aeroflot, told reporters.

Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin signed an order in April to privatise Aeroflot-Russian International Airlines, which covers operations outside the former Soviet Union, as a whole, he said. But the state agency in charge of privatisation, in defiance of Mr. Chernomyrdin's order, floated its own proposal to divide it into four independent airline companies.

The agency, Goskomimushchestvo, and the government's anti-monopoly committee argue that breaking up the Aeroflot monopoly is the only way to create healthy competition and raise standards.

Mr. Tikhonov said this option had won support from some government officials but criticised it fiercely. "If this is approved it will be a historic tragedy for Aeroflot," he said.

It would mean dividing up Aeroflot's 200-aircraft international fleet and cause the airline to lose its trademark, known worldwide, Mr. Tikhonov said.

Smaller national airlines would not be in a position to fly to some international destinations seen as unprofitable, he said.

"These flights can be conducted only by a big airline," said Mr. Tikhonov. "Now about 30 per cent of Aeroflot's flights are unprofitable but taking into account the whole flight network this is tolerable."

Aeroflot made \$1.2 billion profit last year on its international routes, making it the 43rd most profitable airline in the world, compared to a 1991 profit of \$800 million.

Mr. Tikhonov did not give a profit forecast for 1993 but said it would be "minimum" and less than last year.

Mr. Tikhonov said Aeroflot received no financial support from the government but that the cash-strapped government regularly received a portion of the airline's profits.

At base, analysts say, these recurrent gluts mark a structural

Turkey urges preparation for EC customs union

ISTANBUL (R) — President Suleyman Demirel urged Turkish industrialists Sunday to gear up for a customs union with the European Community (EC).

Turkey, an associate member of the EC, has pledged to tear down all tariff and non-tariff trade barriers against EC products by the end of 1995, as a key step to become a full member.

Turkish industrialists should get ready for the customs union. Those who claim they will go bankrupt should put their companies in order, Mr. Demirel told a meeting of the Economic Development Foundation, marking the 30th anniversary of Turkish-EC ties.

Some Turkish economists have warned that the country's fledgling industries, including car makers, would collapse if all trade barriers are removed and the local market is flooded by cheap-

European products.

Speaking at the same meeting, Christiane Scrivener, an EC Commission member, said a customs union would help forge closer ties between the 12-nation Community and Turkey.

"A customs union is the best way of strengthening our relations," Ms. Scrivener said.

She said the EC would have to meet certain obligations towards Turkey when the customs union went into effect, including an easing of restrictions on Turkish textile imports.

Turkey hopes full membership will attract increased foreign investment, boost its exports and raise living standards.

About half of its trade is already with the EC nations.

"Turkey must draw capital by

making it an attractive investment centre... We have to build

industries and services that can

compete with the world," Mr. Demirel said.

The Turkish leader said the government would have to privatise all state enterprises and dump protectionist policies to integrate with Europe.

"State enterprises have fulfilled their roles. Government funds no longer exist to finance protectionism," Mr. Demirel said. "It is absurd to subsidise industries that are not rational."

The EC, preoccupied by the unification of Germany, recession and potential new members in eastern Europe, shelved Turkey's 1987 bid for full membership.

Turkey's ties with the EC have often been soured by its weak human rights record and its 1974 invasion of Cyprus where the Turkish-Cypriots' self-proclaimed state in the north is recognised only by Ankara.

EC poised to protect small depositors against bank failures

BRUSSELS (AFP) — The European Community (EC) is poised to approve harmonised regulations to protect small depositors against bank failures, despite the objections of Germany, diplomats have said.

Diplomats said the measure would take only a cursory look at currency problems and the mismatch treaty deadline for setting up a European monetary institute on Jan. 1 to promote progress towards a single currency by 1999.

Belgian Finance Minister Philippe Maystadt called last week a meeting of EC finance ministers Monday to discuss the measure.

The ministers were expected to agree that depositors should be guaranteed refund of 90 per cent of their money up to a limit of 20,000 European Currency Units (about \$25,000) if a bank or building society goes.

Under the scheme, financial institutions throughout the Community would be required to join a deposit guarantee fund and agree to a minimum level of protection for deposits in any EC currency.

Under the compromise crafted by the EC's current Belgian presidency, countries such as Greece, Spain and Portugal with less comprehensive guarantee systems or none at all would be allowed five years to meet the EC standard.

The proposal has been under discussion for a year, with some countries arguing that it was too strict, and others saying it was not strict enough. Germany, Italy and France currently have considerably more generous systems.

German officials said they would oppose the measure, because it would interfere with the voluntary German system, which offers virtually unlimited protection, and would force German banks outside the system to join it.

Germany is also objecting to the measure because foreign banks operating in Germany would be allowed to join.

And the German banks are

As Middle East tensions abate, so oil prices slide

LONDON (R) — The price of oil is in one of its periodic slumps when, as Middle East tensions ease, Western buyers fear a glut more than they do a threat to supply.

This fear has persuaded the West to invest billions in a strategic insurance policy — tapping its own oil outside the Middle East in places like Alaska and the North Sea.

Norway now produces more than any OPEC seller except Saudi Arabia and Iran.

According to Philip Verleger at the Institute for International Economics in the United States, "the decline in OPEC's market power has probably been the largest contributor to the fall in crude prices."

"Our bottom line is that prices are going to continue to decline," he said.

The West and other non-OPEC sellers like Russia refuse to impose output controls. That puts the burden exclusively on OPEC of setting quotas to try to defend prices at a level that keeps their high-cost oil fields in business.

By a stroke of irony, prices tumbled 30 cents just last Friday even as the Scottish city of Aberdeen played host to 50,000 guests at its 1993 offshore Europe exhibition.

Aberdeen is the base for British North Sea oil operations. Visitors could inspect such space-age technology as remote control pumps to sit on the sea bed and extract petroleum at 50 kilometres from the nearest rig.

It is just possible, say some traders, that this may make it easier for Saudi lobbyists to get the United States to see to it that the U.N. embargo on Iraq is maintained for a bit longer.

India to lure black money to draw black gold

NEW DELHI (AFP) — Dishonest Indians who have stashed billions of rupees away from the tax man will be given a chance to invest their wealth in the search for oil, Petroleum Minister Satish Sharma has announced.

Mr. Sharma told members of a parliamentary committee accredited to his ministry here that the holders of "black money" would

be given immunity from prosecution if they sank their funds into oil exploration.

He said "an attractive package to the owners of black money" was to be made available, an official press release said.

The scheme, being drafted by the petroleum and finance ministries, is the latest bait being dangled by the government to encourage

age tax-dodgers to channel their wealth into productive purposes.

It follows the success of the gold bonds scheme launched in March which offered wealthy Indians a legal channel to launder their "black" or "number two" money.

The central bank attracted 41 tonnes of gold from depositors who were given five-year bonds

under the scheme of tempt the dishonest with immunity from prosecution. No questions were asked as to the source of the gold.

Black money holders had earlier been offered a chance to finance housing projects for the poor, bearer bonds and voluntary disclosure schemes to ferret out their untaxed income.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY SEPTEMBER 13, 1993

By Thomas S. Pearson, Astrologer, Carroll Fighter Foundation

VICES OF A CONSTRUCTIVE NATURE AT WHICH YOU CAN MAKE PROGRESS AND SWAY AWAY FROM PLEASURES THAT ARE FOOLISH.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Think today in terms of those special talents you have and the best manner in which you can put them across and avoid a family discussion.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Take care that you write and say exactly what you mean in communications with others and spend best efforts in improving your residence.

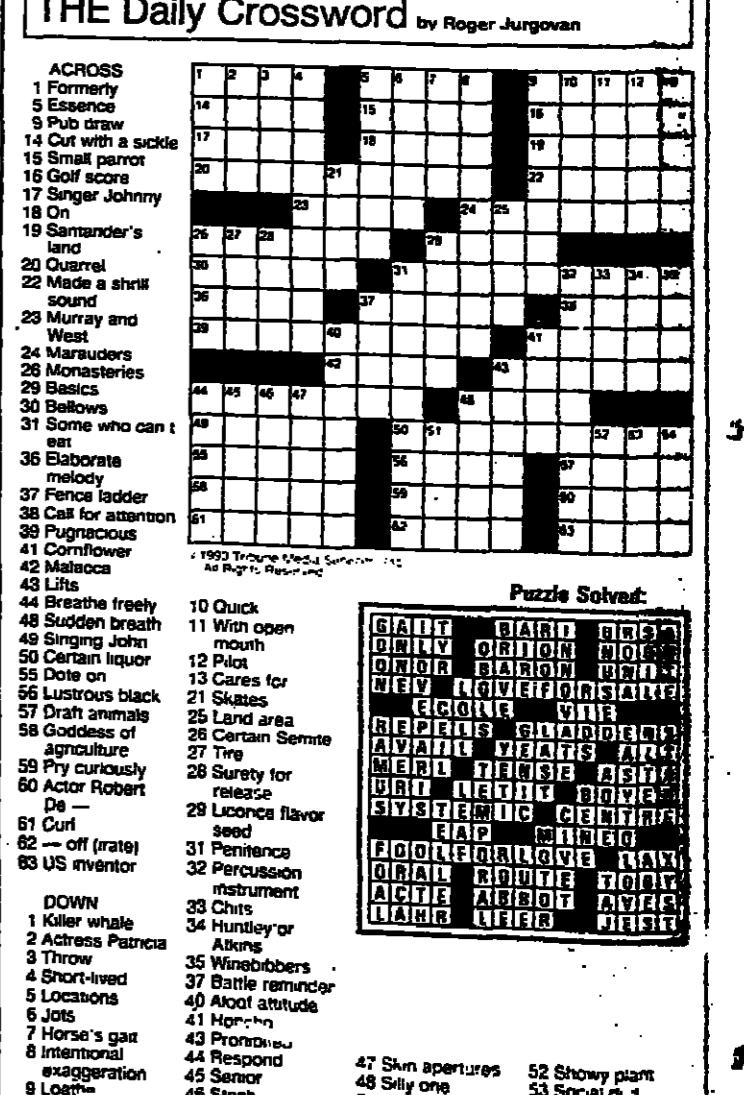
SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Be very careful not to be misled in a practical situation but you will be able to put progressive ideas across to usual companions with aplomb.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Your ideas may be a bit off in judgment but practical minded experts can quickly put them on the right track if you listen to them across well.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Don't let a secret worry that confuses you take precedence over getting out and letting others know what your personal desire happen to be.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Keep away from a determined friend who wants something odd to you and instead build up a greater rapport with the one who means the most to you.

THE Daily Crossword



Puzzle Solved:

SAINTS: ST. PATRICK'S DAY

REPELLENT: ELIMINATE

AVAILABILITY: AVAILABILITY

MERIT: MERIT

URGE: URGE

SYSTEMIC: SYSTEMIC

FOOLISH: FOOLISH

ROUTE: ROUTE

ACTRESS: ACTRESS

LAUGH: LAUGH

LIFER: LIFER

SHAWTY: SHAWTY

SOCIAL: SOCIAL

SLINGER: SLINGER

STASH: STASH

SILLY: SILLY

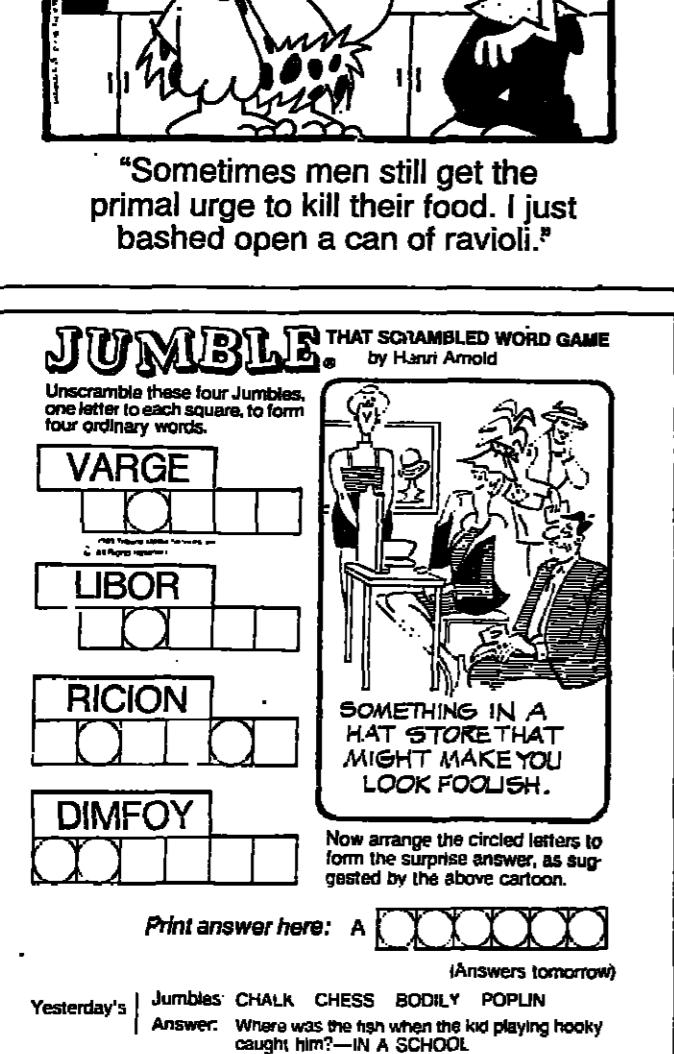
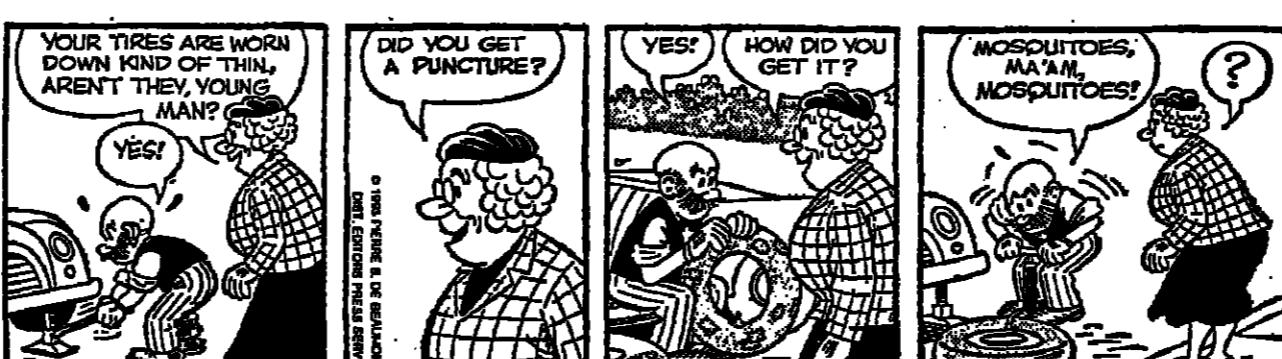
SOCIALIST: SOCIALIST

A SINGER: A SINGER

Andy Capp



Mutt'n Jeff



Yesterday's Jumbles: CHALK CHESS BODY POPPIN

Answer: Where was the hen when the kid playing hooky caught her? — IN A SCHOOL

Economy

JORDAN TIMES, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 1993

COMPANY'S NAME	TRADED VOLUME	PRIY. PRICE	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
	JD	JD	JD	JD
ABAD BANK	32,170	178,500	178,000	179,000
DAMAC NATIONAL BANK	27,553	6,250	6,200	6,150
BANK OF JORDAN	13,774	2,050	2,030	2,035
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	24,807	4,070	4,070	4,000
THE SHENGONG BANK	1,174	1,170	1,170	1,170
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL BANK	10,650	2,350	2,350	2,350
UNION BANK FOR DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	5,043	3,950	3,950	3,950
BUSINESS BANK	32,248	4,450	4,450	4,450
JOHN LEWIS & SONS TRADING BANK	1,224	6,250	6,250	6,250
SEKUY ISLAMIC SAVINGS & INVESTMENT BANK FOR AFGHANISTAN	176,260	1,840	1,840	1,840
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	2,656	4,250	4,250	4,250
PELAGASIA INVESTMENT BANK	1,925	3,850	3,850	3,850
JORDAN INSURANCE	30,633	3,750	3,750	3,750
UNIVERSAL INSURANCE	1,023	3,750	3,750	3,750
PELAGOSIA INSURANCE	10,792	5,000	4,750	4,750
JORDAN INTERNATIONAL HOTELS	273,112	2,300	2,300	2,300
JORDAN EQUITY & INVESTMENT COMPANY	9,425	0,540	0,560	0,560
REAL STATE INVESTMENT	11,284	3,750	3,750	3,750
JOHN LEWIS GOLD FINE TRADES JORDAN	3,544	0,570	0,570	0,570
PELAGOSIA FINANCIAL HOLDINGS LTD	1,224	6,250	6,250	6,250
HIGHWAY EQUIP. MAINTENANCE & SERVICES	283	1,120	1,120	1,120
ARAB TRADING & CONTRACTING CO.	8,400	20,500	21,000	21,000
UNITED ARAB ESTATES & CONTRACTING CO.	9,623	2,750	2,750	2,750
JORDAN PETROLEUM MINES	3,412	1,120	1,120	1,120
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	3,104	9,700	9,700	9,700
JOHNSON CONTROLS INDUSTRIES	17,447	11,000	11,000	11,000
THE JORDAN WOOLSTEX MILLS	33,798	11,000	11,000	11,000
JOHNSON CONTROLS MANUFACTURING	208,242	8,700	8,700	8,700
THE JORDAN PAPER MANUFACTURING	2,882	3,850	3,850	3,850
SPINNING & WEAVING	12,200	18,500	18,500	18,500
JORDAN GLASS INDUSTRIES	111,753	16,250	16,250	16,250
ARAB INVESTMENT & INDUSTRIAL TRADES	69,270	9,550	9,550	9,550
ARAB ALUMINUM INDUSTRIES & TRADING	5,242	1,120	1,120	1,120
JORDAN MEDICAL CORPORATION	553	5,500	5,500	5,500
NATIONAL STEEL TECHNOLOGY	17,447	11,000	11,000	11,000
JOHNSON CONTROLS INDUSTRIES	3,412	1,120	1,120	1,120
JORDAN PRECAST CONCRETE INDUSTRY	83,227	8,700	8,700	8,700
JOHNSON CONTROLS MANUFACTURING	100,000	11,000	11,000	11,000
ARAB CENTER FOR PETROL & CHEMICALS	18,978	3,850	3,850	3,850
JOHNSON CONTROLS MANUFACTURING	13,200	1,120	1,120	1,120
JOHNSON CONTROLS MANUFACTURING	25,412	5,440	5,420	5,470
GRAND TOTAL	1,955,384			
NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET	99628			
TRADED VALUE IN THE PARALLEL MARKET	153777			

Financial Jordan Times
Markets in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

Foreign Exchange Market Summary (September 7-September 10, 1993)

AMMAN — The dollar lost considerable ground against European currencies last week, despite interest rate cuts by the Bundesbank on Thursday. The U.S. unit, ended the week 1.19 per cent lower against the mark, 1.42 per cent lower against sterling, while it moved 1.45 per cent higher against the yen.

After the Labour Day holiday in New York Monday, the dollar traded in narrow ranges Tuesday, but was slightly lower against European currencies in response to increased expectations that the Bundesbank might not ease monetary policy further during its Council meeting Thursday. Analysts indicated that higher-than-expected German M3 money supply figures, showing a growth of 7.4 per cent in July, fed expectations of a tight stance by the Bundesbank. Others also indicated that continued purchases of marks by European central banks to replenish mark reserves contributed to the dollar's decline.

On the other hand, stronger-than-expected Gross Domestic Product figures in western Germany, released that day, confirmed analysts' belief that the pace of economic recovery in Germany was picking up faster than had previously been expected, and that in turn could affect the German unit positively in the near future. GDP was reported to have grown at an annualised rate of 0.5 per cent in the second quarter, compared to 1.9 per cent decline in the first quarter. The dollar moved slightly higher against the yen however, following comments of U.S. Treasury Undersecretary Lawrence Summers on CNBC TV. Mr. Summers was quoted as saying that he felt comfortable that the Japanese government is ready to take steps that would ease access of imported goods to its domestic market and reduce its mounting trade surplus.

The dollar held steady against the mark Wednesday, but moved lower against sterling. Reports indicated that many traders were reluctant to take new positions, ahead of the Bundesbank Council meeting the next day. Despite speculation of a tiny cut in German interest rates, analysts expected a continued tight stance on monetary policy as they indicated that recent economic and monetary data would justify such an action.

Comments by U.S. Federal Reserve Vice Chairman David Mullins caused the dollar to rebound temporarily against the mark during trading hours that day.

Mr. Mullins indicated that the negative consequences resulting from further interest rate cuts could overcome the positive ones expected from such an action. In the meantime, a published report by the Federal Reserve on economic conditions failed to support the dollar. The report indicated that economic conditions had moved from slow to moderate growth levels, in most U.S. districts in late July and August.

The dollar retreated against European currencies Thursday, despite interest rate cuts by the Bundesbank, as traders preferred to keep their long mark positions. The Bundesbank cut both its discount and Lombard rates by 0.50 per cent to 6.25 per cent and 7.75 per cent respectively. The dollar was reported to have appreciated slightly upon announcement of the cuts. Failure to break through the 1.62 mark level caused it to drop sharply later in the day, however.

Dollar sentiment was further hurt Friday, following the release of U.S. August PPI figure, which was lower than expected, thus removing the possibility of a real tightening in the short term. The PPI figure fell 0.6 per cent, after a 0.2 per cent drop in July. Analysts attributed much of the drop in August to a record drop in tobacco prices. The dollar moved higher against the yen however, following the release of a report by the Bank of Japan, giving a bad picture of the Japanese economy, which in turn revived expectations of an imminent cut in the Japanese discount rate. The dollar thus, ended the week at 1.5970 marks, 106.04 yen and at 1.5518 dollars to the pound.

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Date: 12/9/1993

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6880	0.6900
Sterling Pound	1.0670	1.0723
Deutsche Mark	0.4309	0.4331
Swiss Franc	0.4932	0.4957
French Franc	0.1228	0.1234
Japanese Yen*	0.6481	0.6513
Dutch Guilder	0.3834	0.3853
Swedish Krona	0.0870	0.0888
Indian Lira*	0.0447	0.0449
Belgian Franc	0.01998	0.02016

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Date: 12/9/1993

Currency	3/9/1993 Close	10/9/1993 Close	Percent Change
Sterling Pound*	1.5300	1.5518	1.42 %
Deutsche Mark	1.6160	1.5970	-1.19 %
French Franc	5.6925	5.5968	-1.71 %
Japanese Yen*	104.50	106.04	-1.45 %

Japanese land prices suffer sharpest fall since 1955

TOKYO (AFP) — Japan's land prices at the beginning of this year were down 18.1 per cent from a year earlier, the sharpest fall since current records were started in 1955, the National Tax Administration Agency has said.

The agency said the average price of land near major roads across the country was 299,000 yen (\$2,945) a square metre on Jan. 1, down from 365,000 yen the year before.

Average land prices plunged by 20.6 per cent in the Tokyo area

23.9 per cent around Osaka and 16.6 per cent around Nagoya.

Excluding the three biggest cities, prices were down 5.8 per cent from a year earlier, the agency said.

The tax agency uses the annual survey of 350,000 plots of land across Japan to calculate inheritance and land taxes.

Land prices were initially estimated to have fallen 7.4 per cent the previous year. But after adjusting to a new method of calculation, based on 80 per cent of appraised value rather than the previous 70 per cent, the agency said, prices rose 5.8 per cent last year, making this year's fall the first since 1955.

MUSCAT (R) — Oman, trying to rein in rapidly expanding foreign workforce, has set limits on the number of expatriate workers in the private sector and banned them from taking traditional Omani jobs.

Ministerial decrees issued last week limited private firms with financial assets of less than 150,000 riyals (\$390,000) to a maximum of 60 expatriate workers in the country — a small oil producer with a population of over two million.

The rulings are the latest in a government campaign of "Omanisation" seeking to cut dependence on expatriate workers, who each year send home an estimated 900 million riyals (\$2.34 billion) in remittances.

An official at Oman's ministry for social affairs and labour said the decrees were aimed at stopping the influx of overseas workers, mainly from Pakistan and India. Foreigners already working in Oman would not lose their jobs, he said.

"We don't want to rush into a speedy Omanisation whereby we will see many Omanis taking up

mechanical equipment and digging water wells."

In a ruling aimed at cutting the number of foreign domestic servants working in Oman, only expatriates earning over 700 (\$1,800) riyals a month will be allowed to employ a housemaid.

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"We don't want to rush into a speedy Omanisation whereby we will see many Omanis taking up

country. As long as their employers still need them they will have their visas renewed," the official said.

Employers who could not find Omanis with the necessary expertise for the job required would also be granted exemption.

"The aim is to encourage Omanis to work in traditional jobs and to decrease the dependence on expatriate workers, who make up 67 per cent of the labour force," he said.

But business say even if the rulings led to a reduction in cheap foreign competition in the labour markets, many Omanis are both too inexperienced in business and unwilling to work for the low wages offered by such employment.

"We don't want to rush into a speedy Omanisation whereby we will see many Omanis taking up

jobs in the private sector but at the same time bringing down the profitability of companies," leading Oman businessman Murtada Bin Ahmad Sultan Watan told Al Watan newspaper.

The bank has set commercial banks in the sultanate a target of 90 per cent employers by 1995. It was 76 per cent last year.

But it said many banks were merely filling up clerical grades with Omanis and had left the senior management still dominated by expatriates.

The bank's 1992 annual report gave no overall figure for Oman's workforce.

The total Omani population, including expatriates, is estimated at around 2.0 million, but no precise figures will be available until publication of results of the country's first census, due to be held on Nov. 30.

latest newsletter that 64.2 per cent of the 93,000 civil servants were now Omani. The proportion had shown a steady annual rise from 58.8 per cent in 1985.

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The central bank said in its

Oman seeks cutback in foreign workforce</h2

Yeltsin predicts trend towards cooperation of CIS republics

MOSCOW (AP) — President Boris Yeltsin said Saturday that the era of bitter independence battles by the former Soviet republics is ebbing and predicted a trend towards cooperation.

"Everyone now understands that we need each other, especially in the economic sphere," Mr. Yeltsin said in an interview on state-run Russian Television.

Mr. Yeltsin made the statement at a government health centre outside Moscow, standing in a running suit next to an indoor pool just before plunging in for a few laps.

The comments and appearance were part of a campaign to portray Mr. Yeltsin as healthy and confident for a political offensive this month against hardliners who accuse him of destroying Russia, as well as the old Soviet Union.

Appearing flushed but relaxed, the 62-year-old leader said he would return to work Sunday after a two-day recovery from back pains, which Russian and visiting Spanish doctors diagnosed as radiculitis, a non-lethal nerve condition.

His office Friday said doctors pronounced Mr. Yeltsin healthy except for the back condition.

trying to counter allegations by his political opponents and some newspapers that the president is gravely ill.

Russia Wednesday agreed with five other ex-republics — Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Belarus, Armenia and Tajikistan — to work toward a new economic union that could lead to the restoration of a common currency.

Mr. Yeltsin's government also agreed Saturday with Kazakhstan to remove trade barriers, and the president last week launched a rapprochement with Azerbaijan by promising help in ending its five-year war with Armenians.

Asked whether the pact ended a "parade of sovereignties" in the former Soviet Union, Mr. Yeltsin smiled and answered, "No, I don't quite think so."

"I would say (to) whomever thought it is possible to model a union again, 'no, it won't work,'" Mr. Yeltsin said. "And whoever thought it was simple to become independent just on their own was also wrong."

He predicted that the nine leaders of the Commonwealth of Independent States finally will sign documents creating an eco-

nomic union during their next meeting, scheduled for Sept. 24.

His spokesman, Vyacheslav Kostikov, wrote Friday that economic ties will lead to political cooperation beneficial to all former Soviet citizens.

"It's a question of time," Mr. Kostikov wrote in the daily *Komsomolskaya Pravda*. "To deny this impulse means not seeing or hearing either the lessons of history or the real hopes of millions of average people."

His comments were directed at Ukrainian nationalists, who oppose closer ties with Russia and have attacked President Leonid Kravchuk for agreeing with Mr. Yeltsin last week to settle a bitter dispute over control of nuclear weapons and Black Sea naval vessels.

Mr. Kravchuk had said Kiev could no longer afford to fight Moscow and must face the reality that some kind of economic cooperation was essential to its survival.

Meanwhile, Azerbaijani leader Gidar Aliev told a special U.S. envoy Saturday that his country wants better relations with the United States and help in ending

the war with Armenia.

"The situation in Azerbaijan is complicated. Internal tension exists. Armenian aggression continues. We need contact with representatives from Washington," Mr. Aliev told Strobe Talbot, the envoy.

Mr. Talbot, President Bill Clinton's special adviser on the former Soviet Union, was in Baku as part of an extended trip throughout the newly independent states of the collapsed Communist empire.

The visit is part of a stepped up effort by the United States to help mediate conflicts in the former Soviet Union, including warfare in the Caucasus Mountains region and Central Asia.

"This is a good beginning of a dialogue," Mr. Talbot said after meeting Mr. Aliev, Azerbaijan's former Communist leader who came to power June after the ouster of Alufaz Zeybek, the democratically elected president.

Mr. Aliev has been seeking outside help to resolve Azerbaijan's war with Armenian forces over the territory of Nagorno-Karabakh, an area populated by ethnic Armenians but located inside Azerbaijan.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Canada premier opens election campaign

TORONTO (AP) — Prime Minister Kim Campbell fired the starting gun launching Canada's national election campaign and almost immediately stumbled with an insensitive remark about unemployment. If any single comment marked the first week of the campaign for the Oct. 10 election, it was Ms. Campbell's statement that employment in Canada probably won't improve before the year 2000. While that may be true, it certainly wasn't the kind of hope voters are looking for, especially the 11.3 per cent who are jobless. It could be the killer remark that destroys a campaign. It delighted Ms. Campbell's opponents. "Because she is a new figure on the political scene, those first impressions are very important," said Lawrence Leifer, a professor of political science at the University of Toronto. "She has to be careful how she is perceived in these early days." Asked by a reporter when Canadians could expect unemployment to drop below 10 per cent, the prime minister responded: "I think, realistically, all the developed countries are expecting ... what I consider an unacceptable level of unemployment for the next two, three or four years."

Greek premier promises bright future

SALONIKA, Greece (R) — Greek Prime Minister Constantine Mitsotakis, facing an uphill battle for reelection, predicted an end to austerity if his conservative government won a fresh term of office in the October polls. But recession-hit vote in the northern city of Salonika appeared hesitant to share his vision that a bright economic future was just around the corner. "He was saying the same things three years ago and since then our living standards have gone down dramatically," said merchant Ilias Argiris after watching the premier's television address. Mr. Mitsotakis, opening the Saloniaka International Book Fair Saturday night, was cheered by about 3,000 supporters when he announced the end of a three-year austerity programme. He also warned that Greece's economy would collapse completely if his Socialist opponents were elected to government in the Oct. 10 election.

Abiola to return to Nigeria in 2 weeks

LONDON (AP) — Moshood Abiola, the Nigerian politician believed to have won the annulled June 12 presidential elections, will return home from Britain in about two weeks, an aide said. He confirmed that Mr. Abiola had met members of the interim government that replaced military leaders General Ibrahim Babangida last month but refused to give any details of the talks. Mr. Abiola himself said in BBC-Radio interview that he had initially planned to return this weekend but had delayed his return after the head of the interim government Ernest Shonekan had expressed fears for his security. Mr. Abiola denied reaching any kind of compromise with the new Nigerian authorities. He said he had no plan to be a candidate in new presidential elections set for February in his view he was elected in June.

Shevardnadze takes over Interior Ministry

TBILISI (AP) — Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze took over the post of interior minister in a cabinet reshuffle after saying he may declare a "state of emergency" Sunday following rebel advances in western Georgia, the ITAR-TASS News Agency. Mr. Shevardnadze announced his reshuffle Saturday, saying he was temporarily taking over the Interior Ministry in a bid to "improve the fight against crime." Foreign Minister Alexander Chikvaidze and Defense Minister Giorgi Karkarashvili have stayed in their posts in the reshuffled cabinet, which has 15 ministers, five committee presidents and five deputy prime ministers, ITAR-TASS reported. In the past few days there have been increasing attacks by rebels loyal to ousted President Zviad Gamsakhurdia in western Georgia. And last week some 200 armed supporters, or so-called Zviadists, crossed into the enclave of Abkhazia seizing the town of Gali. They now control several towns in Mr. Gamsakhurdia's native western Georgia.

Number of women MPs drops worldwide

CANBERRA (AP) — The average proportion of women represented in the world's parliaments has dropped significantly, according to a survey by the world union of parliaments. Women occupy an average of 10.1 per cent of seats in national parliaments, down from a 14.6 per cent high recorded in 1988, the Inter-Parliamentary Union reported in a study released in Australia Sunday. The report covered a total worldwide parliamentary population of 35,881, of whom 3,626 are women. The survey was released prior to a meeting of women politicians from around the world. They are taking part in the 90th annual inter-parliamentary conference. The conference, meeting Sept. 13-18 in the Australian parliament, will bring together 500 parliamentarians from over 100 countries.

Economy is top issue in Polish elections

WARSAW (AP) — When Poland's voters go to the polls next Sunday, by far the most important issue will be the direction of the economy: Towards liberalisation or state intervention. Prime Minister Hanna Suchocka hit the nail on the head with the slogan that accompanies the tacky photograph of herself on posters up and down this country: "The economy first of all." Her Democratic Union (DU) party has been telling voters that Poland needs more privatisation, more free-market economics, more foreign investment, and continued anti-inflation measures. But it is the ex-Communist alliance of the Democratic Left (ADL), with its campaign for a more "social" economic policy and the Farmer Party (PSL) a former Communist ally, who appear favourites to win, according to opinion polls. This is partly because the people have yet to feel that the painful transition to a modern economy has been worthwhile.

Seoul urges dialogue with North

ASHINGTON (R) — South Korean President Kim Young-sam Saturday urged the leaders of North Korea, who he described as highly unpredictable, to return to the negotiating table to resume nuclear arms talks. "I think there is a major concern about the threat of nuclear proliferation in North Korea," Mr. Kim said when interviewed on CNN Television. "What we want ... is that North Korea return to (the) dialogue table." North Korea dashed hopes for a resumption of long-stalled nuclear talks with the South this week when it demanded Seoul first discontinue its annual military exercises with the United States. "It is very difficult to predict what will happen in North Korea and in a sense it is the most uncertain regime in the whole world," said Mr. Kim, who made his remarks through an interpreter. He maintained that North Korea is trying to back away from the international non-proliferation treaty.

Yeltsin orders ministers to 'work it out'

MOSCOW (AP) — President Boris Yeltsin yielded to protests from economic reformers and repealed an order designed to slow the pace of privatisation. Economics Minister Oleg Lobov persuaded Mr. Yeltsin earlier this week to order the devaluation of millions of vouchers the government gave to its citizens to redeem for stock in privatised companies. The measure would have cut the number of incorporated companies open to public investment. That brought an outcry from privatisation chief Anatoly Chubais and other reformers opposed to easing economic reforms. One pro-reform newspaper called Mr. Lobov economically "illiterate" and his ideas "surrealistic." Mr. Yeltsin suspended his order Saturday and instructing Mr. Lobov, Mr. Chubais and Finance Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin "to work out a coordinate position," the ITAR-TASS News Agency reported, quoting presidential sources.

U.S. experimental rocket makes 2nd flight

WHITE SANDS MISSILE RANGE, N.M. (AP) — For 66 seconds Saturday, hundreds of people on this southern New Mexico missile range gaped in awe as a small experimental rocket went through its manoeuvres. The Delta Clipper-Experimental, a 42-foot (12.6-metre) prototype for a new generation of reusable spacecraft, climbed to about 300 feet (90 metres), hovered, moved laterally about 350 feet (105 metres), then made a vertical landing. It was only the second vertical landing made by a spacecraft on Earth. The first came after the DC-X's maiden flight last month. That test was closed to the public, but for Saturday's event hundreds of dignitaries, engineers and others were invited to watch. They watched silently as the ship rose into the air, and broke into cheers and applause as it settled gracefully back to earth.

1st Japanese to end Cambodian mission

TAKEO, Cambodia (AP) — The first Japanese troops to serve abroad since World War II closed up camp here in southern Cambodia Sunday and prepared to end their UN peacekeeping mission. Its 450 soldiers, scheduled to depart Monday, will leave behind \$11 million worth of equipment for the Cambodian army. The 10 traditional bath houses, a number of generators, a kitchen full of aluminum kettles and porcelain bowls, and a golf driving range will ensure the presence of Japan will not be forgotten. Weeping villagers agree.

Reno: FBI and DEA duplicate efforts

PHILADELPHIA (R) — U.S. Attorney-General Janet Reno Saturday deplored duplicate efforts against illicit drugs but did not endorse merging the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). "That I want to try to do is figure out the best way to end the duplication while at the same time maintaining the drug enforcement effort at its present level or at an enhanced level," Ms. Reno told a national group of editorial writers. "That's not necessarily a merger of the two (agencies)," she added. Vice President Al Gore, as part of sweeping recommendations unveiled this week to increase governmental efficiency, has urged transferring the DEA's law-enforcement powers to the FBI. Both agencies operate under the authority of Ms. Reno, as head of the Justice Department. "Right now the drug enforcement initiative in America is so fragmented there is great duplication in terms of intelligence capability and in terms of automation and in terms of vehicles, procurement, budget, personnel, training," Ms. Reno said.

India to lift S. Africa sanctions

NEW DELHI (R) — India, a founder of the international movement against apartheid, will lift trade sanctions against South Africa this month, a government minister said Sunday. Minister of State for External Affairs Salman Khurshed, who made a rare private visit to South Africa this month, also said New Delhi was prepared to establish diplomatic ties with Pretoria within six weeks. "We will first lift the trade sanctions this month and follow that up with diplomatic ties," Mr. Khurshed said. India will also set up direct air links with South Africa on Oct. 2, the birthday of Indian leader Mahatma Gandhi who led a peaceful campaign against racism in South Africa before leading India to independence from Britain.

Ukraine commemorates famine

KIEV (R) — Ukraine's commemoration of a man-made famine which killed an estimated 7.5 million people in the 1930s neared its climax with film footage showing colossal suffering and a mock trial of the Stalinist system.



A man lies dead on a Santiago pavement after being run over by the water cannon tank in the background Saturday as police tried to repress a march by protesters against the 1973 military coup in Chile (AFP photo)

2 killed during Chilean protests

SANTIAGO (AP) — An elderly man and a youth were killed Saturday as protesters clashed with police in demonstrations marking the 20th anniversary of the coup in which General Augusto Pinochet led

Salvador Allende, a Socialist, killed himself following an aerial bombardment during the 1973 right-wing military coup led by General Augusto Pinochet.

Gen. Pinochet ruled until 1990, when Mr. Aylwin was inaugurated and the country returned to democracy. Gen. Pinochet remains the head of the army and is a senator-for-life.

In the well-heeled neighbourhoods of Providencia, La Reina and Las Condes, cars paraded in formation to celebrate the anniversary, honking their car horns and waving Chilean flags. Police did not intervene.

Gen. Pinochet came close Saturday to asking Chile's forgiveness, twenty years after he led the bloody military coup.

"He who has been in cattle knows what the noise of bullets means, knows what it is like to face enemies, knows when someone falls at one's feet. All this produces a mental uncontrollability to deny the allegation. 'If I did, all the more people would think that I was guilty,' she said, adding: 'My conscience is clear and even if they ask me about this is South Africa, I won't be afraid because I am confident that I can explain myself as clearly as possible. 'I have never been a quitter and I will go to the Miss World contest with my head held high,' she said.

Choking back tears, Mr. Allende's widow Hortencia Bussi placed a bouquet at the window of the La Moneda Presidential Palace where her husband was found dead with bullet wounds as troops faithful to Gen. Pinochet surrounded the palace.

"The doctors did everything they could for him but finally he died," Mr. Pinochet said.

Political groups on the left which consider Allende a martyr hero were outraged at the violence.

"It is inexplicable for a peace-

Gunmen kill leading Aristide supporter

PONT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — A prominent supporter of exiled President Jean-Bertrand Aristide was dragged from a mass — in front of human rights observers — and assassinated outside the church Saturday.

Another person was killed and one was wounded and wounded in the attack.

A Roman Catholic priest said the assassin of businessman Antoine Izmerly were plainclothes police. A pickup truck driven by a uniformed policeman and carrying 10 plainclothesmen circled the Sacre Coeur Church minutes before the mass.

Three hours later, two assailants fatally shot a retired army colonel at a gas station in suburban Petionville. It was not known if the killing of Antoine Jocelyn, a former army doctor who was among officers retired by Mr. Aristide, was related to the izmerly assassination.

The army condemned the killings of Mr. Izmerly and Dr.

Jocelyn in a statement broadcast on state television late Saturday and said it had instructed all levels of the military to help put an end to "banditry."

The mass was to commemorate a military-backed massacre five years ago in which gunmen shot and hacked to death 11 people and wounded 70 at another church during a mass celebrated by Mr. Aristide, the target of that attack.

Saturday's killing was the boldest challenge yet to a U.N.-brokered peace plan providing for Mr. Aristide's return to power on Oct. 30. The popular Catholic priest was ousted in 1991, and some soldiers have vowed to kill him if he returns.

Mr. Izmerly, who bankrolled Mr. Aristide's successful 1990 election campaign, told the Associated Press minutes before his death that he had been warned of bloodshed by a police special agent if the mass went on.

Nearly a dozen men then surrounded Mr. Izmerly and hustled him outside, where he was shot in the head.

Another man, who appeared to be a passerby and was wearing radio headphones, was found dead across the street.

India sets up team to probe car bomb

Officials said the government had set up a high-powered team of investigators drawn from the Central Bureau of Investigation, the Intelligence Bureau — the main domestic intelligence organisation, and the Delhi police.

Officials of the cabinet secretariat would also join the team, which is already hard at work, one official said.

Congress officials said police had found what appeared to be a cellular phone on the other side of the road which may have been used to trigger the bomb.

They said Mr. Bittas may have survived because the person who set off the bomb had his view blocked momentarily by traffic moving in the opposite direction and pressed the button a fraction of a second early.

A few seconds earlier would probably have resulted in a bigger death toll, as a packed bus had just moved sufficiently far away to escape the worst of the blast, witnesses said.

Meanwhile, another bomb killed two people at Secunderabad Station in the south India state of Andhra Pradesh Sunday, the United News of India reported.

The agency said the bomb exploded in the ticket reservation section of the station, which is near the Andhra Pradesh capital of Hyderabad, and both victims were railway employees.

It said two people were injured.

The agency did not say who was suspected of planting the bomb, but the Andhra Pradesh government is fighting an uprising of violence by Maoists of the People's War Group (PWG), known locally as Naxalites after the town where the movement began.

Railway stations have been among the targets for PWG bombs in recent weeks.

Police said Saturday that at least six PWG members and a paramilitary policeman were killed in a clash in the northern part of the state that lasted more than 24 hours.

They said scores of heavily armed policemen surrounded the village of Padikal in the northern part

Sports

9

Ramtha Soccer Championship Wimdat face Syria's Wihdeh today

By a Jordan Times
Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan's Al Ramtha and Al Wihdat have so far proven that they will not settle for an advanced position at the 2nd Ramtha Soccer Championship now underway in Irbid.

The championship, which opened Thursday under the patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Hassan, has drawn six teams. The first group includes Al Wihdat, Syria's Al Wihdeh, and Qatar's Al Wakrah, while the second group includes Al Ramtha, Palestine's Gaza, and Iraq's youth national team.

Al Ramtha beat Gaza 3-1 in the opening match. The first half ended 2-0 for Al Ramtha. In another match Al Wihdat scored an impressive 3-1 win over Al Wakrah to top their group's standing.

Gaza was eliminated from the championship when they lost 5-2 to the Iraqi team. The first half ended 3-1.

Only the top two teams from each group will advance to the semifinal round which begins Sept. 17.

In the upcoming matches Al



Al Wihdat's team

Wihdat play Al Wihdeh Monday, Al Ramtha play Iraq

Tuesday and Al Wakrah clash with Al Wihdeh Wednesday.

STANDINGS

GROUP 1

	P	W	L	GF	GA	PTS
Iraq	1	1	-	5	2	2
Ramtha	1	1	-	3	1	2
Gaza	2	-	2	3	8	0

GROUP 2

	P	W	L	GF	GA	PTS
Wihdat	1	1	-	3	1	2
Wakrah	1	-	1	1	3	1
Wihdeh	-	-	-	-	-	-

TERRASSA, Spain (AP) — Palestine could take part in the Atlanta Games in 1996, International Olympic Committee President Juan Antonio Samaranch said Saturday.

"The IOC would have no objection to Palestine joining the Olympic movement," he said while attending the junior women's Hockey World Championships here.

Samaranch said recognition would be depen-

dent on the Palestine Liberation Organisation and Israel signing their agreement in Washington Monday.

The IOC leader said a Palestine delegation could take part in the 1996 Games in the United States.

He added that the IOC was still studying the possibility of including women's football, beach volleyball and mountain bike racing at the games.

Ferguson blames internationals for defeat

LONDON (AP) — Manchester United Manager Alex Ferguson blamed international duties for the English champions' first defeat in six months at Chelsea Saturday.

Most of the Premiership leaders' squad in the 1-0 reversal were on duty for the European under-21 championship Tuesday or the World Cup Wednesday.

The effect of going on international duty showed in the first 20 minutes, when they were second to every ball," Ferguson moaned after his side had fallen to a Gavin Peacock effort.

"When you're playing away from home, you want to make an early impact, but we allowed Chelsea to get a foot in the game. But I'm not bothered about it. We're still top. That's a consolation. We haven't cut our throats badly."

Chelsea boss Glen Hoddle felt the London club produced their finest performance of the season under his management.

"In the first 45 minutes we played fantastic football and opened them up," he enthused. "In the second half we had to show our other side and dig deep. Some of our defensive play was superb. That has given us a lot of

belief in ourselves.

"We matched them for skill, we matched them for effort and I just pleased at how far we've come."

United defeat allowed double cup winners Arsenal to draw level on points with their 4-0 home demolition of Ipswich, who succumbed to a Kevin Campbell hat-trick.

BRITISH SOCCER

Gummers boss George Graham beamed: "That was just what Kevin needed. He had an easy goal to start with and then produced a superb all round display."

"I've seen him play even better, but this was an excellent performance by him and I thought we won comprehensively. I was expecting a hard battle against Ipswich because they're normally so hard to break down."

Ipswich manager John Lyall locked his team in the dressing room for an hour-long inquest afterwards. But team coach Mick McGivern emerged to admit: "A lot of other teams would have suffered against Arsenal today — not just Ipswich."

Arsenal overwhelmed us last season as well, but we got away with a goalless draw. This time they had brilliant individual skills to score four."

Aston Villa Manager Ron Atkinson felt Wales striker Dean Saunders should have emulated Campbell. But his side only got a goalless draw against Coventry, who are now third.

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U.S. Open

Graf claims 3rd U.S. Open crown

NEW YORK (AP) — Steffi Graf claimed the 14th Grand Slam title of her career Saturday with a straight-set victory over Helena Sukova in the U.S. Open women's singles final.

Graf, the world number one and top seed, did what second-seeded Arantxa Sanchez Vicario and number three Martina Navratilova could not: Find a way to pass the tall Czech when she tried to attack at the net.

The German needed just an hour and five minutes to beat Sukova 6-3, 6-3.

Although she had a few shaky moments on her own serve, including a double fault at break point in the second set, Graf was never really under pressure.

Her service breaks came after she had broken Sukova, and her passing shot did the job.

Graf, who has now won six tournaments in a row, three of them Grand Slams, said that run of success was self-perpetuating.

"I feel confident. When I know I am playing well, when I realize how well I am playing, it is difficult to do something against me."

As Sukova found out.

"Today she was better, there was nothing I could do about it," said Sukova, the 12th seed.

She was playing in her second U.S. Open final, after finishing runner-up to Navratilova in 1986.

Sukova was upset at some of the line calls, especially in the first set.

In the second game of the match, she disagreed with a call that gave Graf double break point. Sukova thought the approach went wide.

She complained to the umpire, then took her time with her next serve, but dropped the game with a double fault.

She said that early lead was crucial for Graf.

"It's difficult when you lose games like that," she said. "If she gets ahead, there's less pressure on her."

However, she also admitted that she was a little too slow, a little too prone to mistakes.

"I had chances, but I wasn't as sharp as I needed to be at the important times of the match," she said.

Sukova, Sanchez Vicario score doubles upset

Helena Sukova, denied a U.S. Open singles title earlier in the day, teamed with Arantxa Sanchez Vicario to score a big victory in women's doubles at the U.S. Open Saturday night.

Sukova and Sanchez Vicario beat Gigi Fernandez and Natalia Zvereva 1-6, 6-3, 6-4 in the semi-finals to end the top-ranked



Steffi Graf

team's hopes of a Grand Slam and its 41-match slam winning streak.

Fernandez and Zvereva had won six straight Grand Slam tournaments, dating to last year's French Open.

U.S. OPEN NOTEBOOK:

Becker's girlfriend expecting baby in January; Boris Becker's girlfriend, Barbara Feltus, is expecting the couple's first child in mid-January.

Becker told German reporters at the U.S. Open that he and Feltus will be married soon.

The three-time Wimbledon champion said he was delighted at becoming father.

Becker told reporters he had been seeking advice on how to combine his tennis career with new responsibilities as a husband and father from Stefan Edberg.

The Swedish star and his wife had their child at the end of July.

Becker will pass up the Australian Open, but among the tournaments in which he plans to enter is the \$6 million Grand Slam Cup in December at Munich, Germany.

He will then take a break to be present when the baby is born.

Le Cinqieme Musketier:

Locoste... Borotra... Cochet... and now, Piel.

By beating Wally Masur Saturday, Cedric Pioline became the fourth Frenchman to reach the Open men's final. Aside from the Pioline household, the names of the others are a bit better known.

The 15th-seeded player from Paris joined the ranks of Rene Lacoste, the winner of the U.S. men's championships in 1926-27, Jean Borotra, who lost to Lacoste in '26, and Henri Cochet, who won in 1928 and '32.

In girls singles, fourth-seed Julie Steven of Wichita, Kansas, lost to 15th-seeded Yuko Yoshida of Japan, 6-1, 7-6 (7-4), in the semifinals.

Returning to form: The author of one of the tournament's biggest upsets finally lost Saturday.

No, it wasn't Karel Novacek or Wayne Ferreira or Leila Meshki.

Those players, all of whom beat big names in the first round of the main draws, were all long gone.

Sticking around until the semi-finals of boys singles, however, was Paul Goldstein, an unseeded 17-year-old from the United States, who beat the world's top-ranked junior, Razvan Saban of Romania, in the second round.

In girls singles, fourth-seed Julie Steven of Wichita, Kansas, lost to 15th-seed Yuko Yoshida of Japan, 6-1, 7-6 (7-4), in the semifinals.

This led Pioline to a logical conclusion.

"So he is a good player," he said. "We will see tomorrow."

With long distance help from his coach, Henri Dumont, who returned to Paris on business after the first week of the Open, Pioline played up and down tennis against Masur. He was nearly perfect in the first and fourth sets but far from that in the second and third.

A year ago, when he played the Open, Pioline was fairly anonymous, ranked No. 60 in the world and gone by the third round.

Sampras back at No. 1

CEDRIC PIOLINE became the first Frenchman to reach the finals at the U.S. Open in 61 years Saturday, beating unseeded Wally Masur 6-1, 6-7 (3-7), 7-6 (7-2), 6-1 only to face the newest No. 1-ranked player in men's tennis.

Pete Sampras, taking advantage of Jim Courier's early elimination by the 15th-seeded Pioline, claimed the top spot in the ATP Tour rankings and a berth in the championship with a 6-4, 6-3, 6-2 victory over Alexander Volkov later Saturday.

Sampras, who won the Open in 1990 and captured Wimbledon last July 1, held the No. 1 ranking from April 12 before losing it back to Courier on Aug. 23, one week before this tournament began.

The 22-year-old from the United States took it back decisively against Volkov. Sampras opened the match with three straight aces, zooming serves of up to 126 mph (203 kph), a sort of declaration of his intentions. He had 16 aces and converted 95 per cent of his first serves.

Volkov, the first Russian to ever reach the semifinals at the Open, was not broken until it counted most, on the final game of the first set.

Sampras began wearing Volkov down after that and by the third game, with shadows settling over the National Tennis Centre, he was clearly in charge.

"I served very well," Sampras said. "My serve was really on today; I'm hitting the ball really well. It's been better and better so far here."

Sampras knows he will be favoured Sunday. He usually is.

"I'm expected to win," he said. "On any given day, anything can happen. He's a very talented player. He'll come out swinging. He's played well all week. I hope it can put pressure on him and then see what happens."

A year ago, Sampras reached the Open final against Stefan Edberg but came in sick with a stomach virus and lost in four sets.

"I'm not thinking of last year," he said. "Last year I had a bit of bad luck and got sick the night before. I feel good now."

Sampras said No. 1 is nice but is not his top priority.

"A U.S. Open victory is the bottom line," he said. "If I lose tomorrow, I'll be pretty upset."

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World Bank proposes \$3b plan for West Bank, Gaza

WASHINGON (R) — The World Bank Sunday proposed a \$3 billion, 10-year economic development plan for the West Bank and Gaza Strip to help improve chances of a lasting peace in the Middle East.

"Significant external capital flows will be needed during the take-off period," it said. "(That) is... essential for the future peace and prosperity in the region."

The bank proposed a two-stage, high-priority, public investment programme for the West Bank and Gaza Strip to improve immensely living conditions in the territories.

The first stage, covering the next five years, would cost \$1.35 billion. It would include outlays of \$280 million on water and sewerage projects, \$330 million on transport, \$350 million on power plants and \$190 million on education.

The second stage would cost \$1.6 billion and would cover the following five years. During that period, about \$500 million would be spent on transport and \$600 million on power projects.

On top of the \$3 billion in public investment it has proposed for the next 10 years, the World Bank said that the territories would need an extra \$2.5 billion in private sector investment during that time to make their economy viable.

In a special report on the occu-

pied territories, the bank saw an urgent need for a major upgrading of public services in the West Bank and Gaza Strip — from new power plants to sewerage facil-

ties. It said that much of that money could come from prosperous expatriate Palestinians and it suggested selling them Palestinian bonds — or Arafat bonds, as they've already become known in financial circles, after PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat.

The World Bank proposal will be discussed in Washington on Sept. 20 by officials of the PLO, Israel and Arab states. The PLO is expected to propose a more ambitious plan covering the period through the year 2000 and costing \$11.6 billion.

Bank officials earlier this month had said the lending organisation planned to propose a \$4.3 billion economic development programme for the territories, but their calculations apparently involved some double-counting.

The \$3 billion bank plan though does not take into account an expected influx of expatriate Palestinians back to the occupied territories now that a peace agreement was being signed the PLO and Israel. Such an influx would likely add to development costs.

The bank's proposed investment programme also excluded finance for day-to-day running of the new Palestinian entity. They would boost costs by a further \$500 million, the bank said.

Tudjman orders 24-hour ceasefire

ZAGREB (Agencies) — Croatian President Franjo Tudjman has ordered a 24-hour unilateral ceasefire by his armed forces to give him time to reach a truce with Serb separatists, the official agency Hina reported Sunday.

Mr. Tudjman made the announcement while addressing the national defence and Security Council, meeting in Zagreb to examine the military and political situation in the light of "increased Serb aggression" on Croatian towns."

He did not say at what time the ceasefire would take effect.

Meanwhile, Croatian army tanks were reported moving towards Okucani on part of the Zagreb to Belgrade motorway controlled by Serb separatists in Croatia, the Yugoslav Agency Tanjug reported Sunday.

Tanjug, citing Serb military sources in Bosnia, said the Croatian army was trying to retake the portion of the highway in Serb hands.

An attack was also expected on Serb separatist positions in Western Slovenia, the sources said.

Separately, fighting continued between Serbs and Croats in the southern region of Gospic, where Serb forces were trying to retake the villages of Divoševac and Cirkuk which fell into Croatian hands on Friday.

The Croatian army is thereby attempting to "control the communication axis between Gospic and the bridge of Maslenica," the Serb agency in Krajina, Iskra reported.

Meanwhile, Sunday morning four explosions rocked the centre of the town of Samobor, 30 kilometres west of Zagreb, Croatian radio reported.

The first explosion, at 8:05 a.m. (0605 GMT) hit the pictureque town's antique market. It was followed by three others in quick succession which all hit within 500 metres of the first, police said.

The missiles were Okran shells which carry numerous small time-bombs which look like little bells with a ribbon attached.

Radio Samobor broadcast regular warnings to the population not to touch these little bells or any other unknown metallic object.

On Saturday evening a ground

to-ground Luna-17 hit a western suburb of Zagreb injuring nine people and damaging a dozen homes.

American role

Some 50,000 peacekeepers would be needed to implement a possible Bosnia peace accord, and about half the troops would be American, Defence Secretary Les Aspin said Sunday.

Mr. Aspin's remarks — which he said were based on the assessment of U.S. military planners — were the most specific to date on the size and makeup of a U.N.-sanctioned "multinational force" that might be asked to enforce an accord in Bosnia.

Speaking at a defence conference in Brussels, Mr. Aspin predicted it would be hard to get the Congress to approve U.S. participation if the allies did not contribute at least half the force.

"It's not going to be easy in any case," to get a congressional go-ahead, he said.

Mr. Aspin gave a speech and answered questions from the audience at a conference of the International Institute for Strategic Studies in Brussels.

At the defence conference Mr. Aspin was asked about planning for implementing a possible peace agreement that would divide Bosnia among the Croats, Serbs and Muslims. At first Mr. Aspin said it was "too sensitive" to discuss in public.

Then he referred to recent news accounts of the likely size of a peacekeeping force.

"The numbers that you see (in newspapers) are roughly what it's looking like," Mr. Aspin said. "You're talking about overall numbers of around 50,000 total."

Mr. Aspin said President Bill Clinton was not ready to officially commit the United States to participating in a Bosnia peacekeeping force, but that in any case it was politically important that the allies contribute heavily to any such force.

"I do believe it is a very difficult proposition to convince the American congress to do that if the expectation is that the allies aren't going to be up at least 50 per cent of that," he said. "It's not going to be easy in any case."

4 Israelis, 3 Palestinians killed

(Continued from page 1)

carried out searches as senior army chiefs launched an investigation.

The trio were the first troops to arrive from Haifa claimed responsibility for shooting dead a soldier in Hebron on the West Bank on Sept. 2.

Meanwhile two Palestinians blew themselves up the day before the Palestinian autonomy agreement is signed at the White House.

"One died when he crashed his car-bomb into a prison van just outside Gaza City, slightly hurting an Israeli soldier and a prison guard."

In the Rafah refugee camp, a Palestinian identified as Iyad Radwan of the anti-Arafat Red Eagles group was killed when a grenade he was carrying in his hand exploded as he was fleeing from soldiers. Israeli and Arab sources said. Two Palestinian

defence lawyers are expected for the first time granted permission to fly the green, red, black and white flags in the occupied territories to mark the historic occasion.

As news spread of Mr. Arafat's departure for Washington to sign an autonomy agreement with Israel, this hotbed of resistance witnessed scenes of joy few could remember.

The Israeli authorities have for the first time granted permission to fly the green, red, black and white flags in the occupied territories to mark the historic occasion.

New York bombing trial starts tomorrow

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Residents of Jericho with a history of resistance against the Israeli occupation are gearing up to ensure that they are not sidelined in the wave of Palestinian leadership-in-exile that is expected to sweep their hometown before the end of the year.

Saleh Balou, who served as deputy head of Jericho's municipal council elected in 1976 before being deposed by the Israeli military administration, says he and other members of the council are demanding that the body be reinstated since it represented the last elected authority in the town.

"We are the legitimate representatives of the people of Jericho," Mr. Balou, who is visiting Jordan to lobby Jericho natives resident in the Kingdom, said in an interview.

"We have been in touch with officials of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and told them that our council should be reinstated," he said.

Mr. Balou, a former schoolteacher who was first elected to the council in 1972, said the Israeli occupation forces "very conveniently used a provision in the Jordanian law in 1981 to remove the eight-member body from office and appoint a three-member panel" in its place when the council's head, Abdul Aziz Al Sweidi, died.

It was a classic example of how Israel used Jordanian laws, which were in force in the West Bank before the Jewish state occupied it in 1967, whenever it suited its purposes in the occupied territories.

"We don't want any confrontation, but we will insist that the rights of the people of Jericho are not pushed aside by the PLO leadership," he added.

Mr. Balou said he and fellow committee members were

trying to contact the thousands of Jericho natives who fled to the East Bank in 1967 with a view to "ensuring that our voice is heard and listened to" ahead of the implementation of the Israeli-PLO autonomy agreement.

Jericho, a sleepy Biblical town of about 17,000 to 18,000 residents in the Jordan Valley on the main route between Amman and Jerusalem, is expected to be the base for the Palestinian self-authority stemming from an agreement expected to be signed in Washington today in a ceremony attended by PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

"We don't know of the PLO's plans for Jericho," said another Jericho resident who is also visiting Jordan in a bid to lobby his compatriots.

"We have to ensure that we are not sidestepped by some of those who find it convenient to join the peace wagon after staying away from the struggle against occupation for decades," said the activist, who preferred anonymity.

"Many of us in Jericho have always resisted the occupation and have our bodies to prove it," said the man, rolling up his shirt to expose a scarred back which he said was the result of Israeli torture in prison.

"We have always felt that Jericho was not properly represented even after the peace process took off," said the man, ignoring a reminder that Saeb Erakat, a Jericho resident, was the deputy head of the Palestinian peace negotiating team.

"We don't want any confrontation, but we will insist that the rights of the people of Jericho are not pushed aside by the PLO leadership," he added.

Now he sits on a sofa in a vast, impersonal hotel suite and refuses to say whether he will even attend the signing ceremony on Monday. He worries because the agreement on Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank and Gaza Strip does not rule out future Israeli claims to "sovereignty" over the territories.

But Dr. Abdul Shafi is used to being unfashionable and appearing lonely, and nobody can accuse him of not believing in peace.

In 1947 he supported a United Nations resolution proposing that Palestine — the land between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea administered by Britain under an international mandate since 1920 — should be partitioned into two states, one for Jews and one for Arabs.

His quietly argued doubts are unfashionable and his job as chief Palestinian negotiator at the Middle East peace talks is suddenly pointless. Israel and the PLO

in what appeared to be a forerunner of what Mr. Arafat and his associates are likely to hear in the West Bank and Gaza.

Reports from the PLO headquarters in Tunis say that the PLO leadership is aware of the pitfalls that await it in the occupied territories.

Part of a special committee formed by the PLO this week is to enlist the support of local notables and activists in the functions of the self-rule authority.

But residents of the West Bank believe that the PLO leadership, long known to favour those who tow the line, would focus on a few people with "proven credentials" — meaning loyalty to the organisation — while setting up its apparatus in the occupied territories, the activist said.

Mr. Balou said he also discussed with PLO officials in Amman "preparations to receive Arafat, who is expected to arrive in the next 10 weeks."

"Jericho is in no shape to celebrate let alone arrange a welcoming ceremony," he said. "The roads are damaged, the water network is broken and our schools and hospitals are in bad shape."

"The Israeli simply did not care," he said, adding that the occupation authorities, in line with a long-held Israeli policy, refused to entertain complaints of neglect.

"When we point out a street lamp is broken and needs replacement, the (Israeli) officer will say, 'let the father of the boy who threw stones and broke it replace it with his own money,'" he said, citing an example of Israel's refusal to abide by the Geneva conventions related to the treatment of people and land under occupation by the occupier.

EC backs aid plan, to invite Arafat

ALDEN BIESEN, Belgium (Agencies) — The European Community (EC) gave broad backing Sunday to an EC economic aid plan aimed at bolstering peace in the Middle East, and said it would invite Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat for consultations.

EC foreign ministers, at an informal weekend meeting, hailed the Israeli-Palestinian agreement due to be signed in Washington on Monday, but stressed the need for prompt follow-up action to prevent the deal being sabotaged by opponents.

Belgian Foreign Minister Willy Claes, who chaired the talks and will attend the White House signing ceremony, announced at a news conference that he would invite the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) chairman to meet EC foreign ministers in Brussels.

Jacques Delors, president of the EC's Executive Commission, told the same news conference ministers had given broad support for a commission plan to aid the Israeli-occupied territories and to encourage EC-style regional economic cooperation.

In addition to a 500 million ECU (\$600 million), five-year plan which Mr. Delors said would be only for the occupied territories, External Political Affairs Commissioner Hans van den Broek said extra short-term aid of 20 million ECU (\$24 million) was planned this year for Jericho and the Gaza Strip, which are due to be granted self-rule by Israel.

The ministers also agreed to step up efforts to end the Arab boycott of Israel, and to negotiate an expanded cooperation and free trade accord with Israel.

The Belgian minister added that teams of Israeli and Palestinian officials would also be invited to EC headquarters soon to map out their economic requirements.

Mr. Claes, who chaired the meeting, said Mr. Arafat needed political support "and concrete (development) plans so that the local Palestinian population can be shown that something fundamental is changing."

The Belgian foreign minister said the invitation to Mr. Arafat would be delivered in Washington Monday during the signing of the Israeli-Palestinian accord on Palestinian autonomy.

Mr. Claes, currently president of the EC Council of Foreign Ministers, will be present at the signing, along with Mr. Delors.

British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd said it was inevitable that some people of both sides would be opposed to the accord, and it was important that they should realise that going ahead was less dangerous than trying to back out of it.

"We all feel that this is a breakthrough which is comparable to the collapse of the Berlin Wall. It is a beginning and now it has to be followed through on the economic and the political side," Mr. Hurd said.

"She did use her femininity as a weapon. She didn't just shout and bully," Mr. Clarke said.

Sewage emergency proclaimed in San Diego

SAN DIEGO, California (AP) — California's governor declared a state of emergency in San Diego county after a controlled flow of raw sewage from Mexico polluted a river valley and beaches here.

"The magnitude of this disaster has the potential to exceed the capabilities of the services personnel and facilities of the cities in San Diego county," Governor Pete Wilson said. The declaration will allow him to apply for federal aid to clean up the sewage. Untreated sewage for weeks has been flowing north from Tijuana, Mexico, into the Tijuana River Valley and polluting California beaches.

On Tuesday, the San Diego City Council declared a sewage emergency, a measure necessary before the International Boundary and Water Commission can erect a temporary U.S. treatment facility to store sewage during the day so it can be shipped back to Tijuana at night when that city's treatment plant is not working at full capacity.

"We all feel that this is a breakthrough which is comparable to the collapse of the Berlin Wall. It is a beginning and now it has to be followed through on the economic and the political side," Mr. Hurd said.

Dr. Abdul Shafi said a number of people taken away by the Israelis in 1956 never returned. Their families appealed to the Red Cross but nobody could find out what had happened.

"Then by chance next year, I think in the winter, there was plenty of rain and there was flooding. Then a ditch was discovered where there were about 40 bodies. All of them had been shot. Many of them were these people who were missing."

Dr. Abdul Shafi does not volunteer these memories. He is not bitter. He is just not sure that peace is really here.

Bionauts' to return after 2 years in test tube

TUCSON, Arizona (R) — Eight "bionauts" who have spent two years living in the world's largest test tube will emerge from their "Biosphere 2" on Sept. 26, exactly 24 months after entering it, a spokesman said Friday. Biosphere 2, a huge glass and steel structure set in the Arizona Desert outside Tucson, consists of a series of seven domes and spires, some five stories tall. It is intended as a model for a possible future colony on Mars or the moon.



Israeli policemen talk to arrested Palestinians in the Shatila refugee camp in north Jerusalem Sunday where the Israeli army sealed two Palestinian homes. Sons of these families have been found guilty of killing an Israeli Jewish woman a year ago (AFP photo)

Abdul Shafi wonders whether accord will lead to real peace

By Paul Eddle
Reuter

WASHINGTON — In the 74-year lifetime of Palestinian negotiator Haidar Abdul Shafi, Israel has grown from a dream in the minds of 100,000 settlers to a state of five million people.

Dr. Abdul Shafi is still not convinced that the agreement that Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) will sign at the White House on Monday means real peace between Jews and the Arabs they pushed